

2022

BfR – EFSA

Zusammenarbeit des deutschen Focal Point der
Europäischen Behörde für Lebensmittelsicherheit
und des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerks

JAHRESBERICHT



Der deutsche EFSA Focal Point bedankt sich bei den deutschen Artikel-36-Organisationen und der EFSA für die erfolgreiche Zusammenarbeit in 2022.

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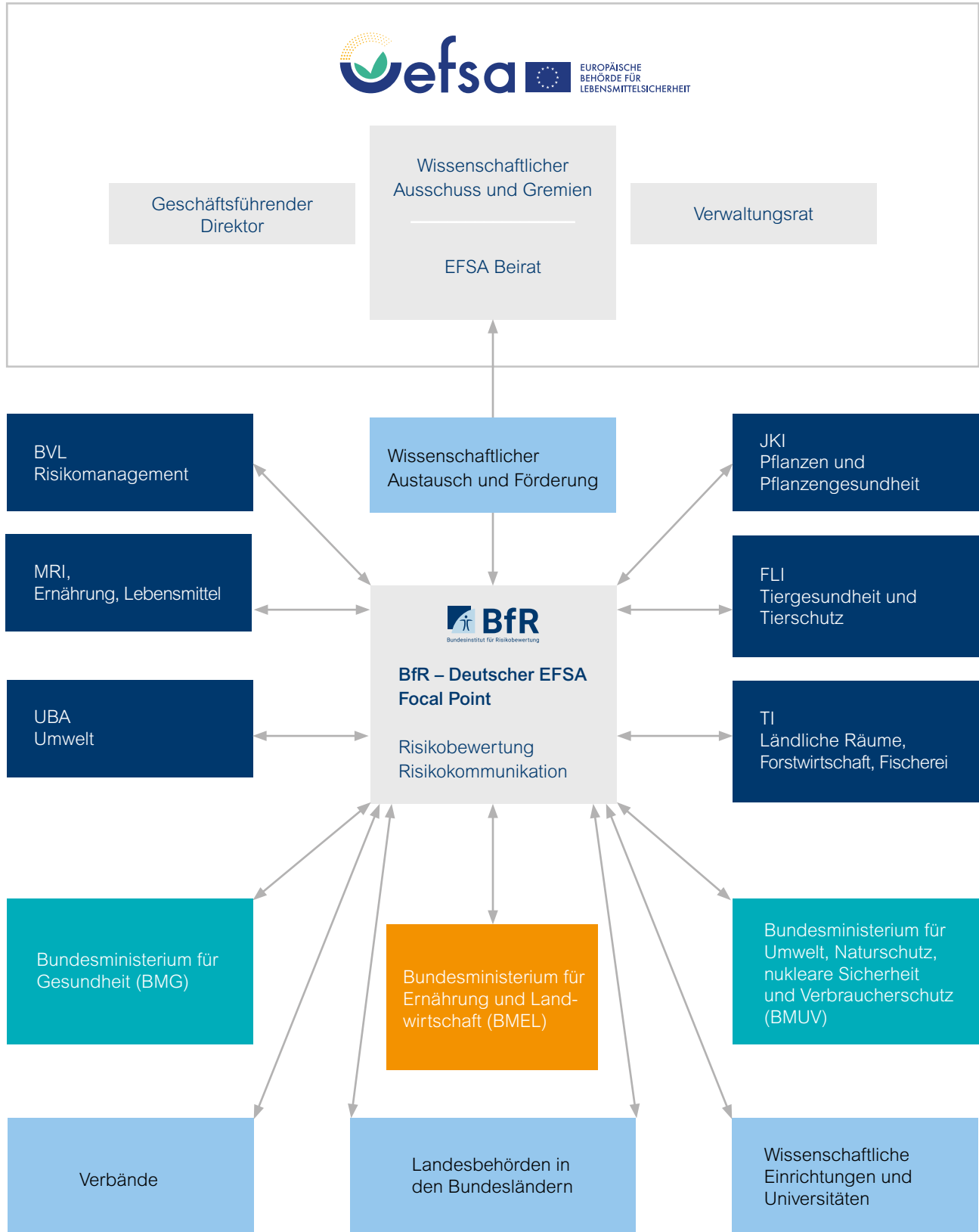
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Zusammenarbeit mit der EFSA



Stakeholder und Partner des deutschen EFSA Focal Point

Europäische Behörde für Lebensmittelsicherheit	European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)	Zuständig für die wissenschaftliche Beratung und Kommunikation zu Risiken in der Lebensmittelkette in der Europäischen Union (EU).
Verwaltungsrat der EFSA	EFSA's Management Board	<p>Der Verwaltungsrat ist das Leitungsorgan der EFSA und stellt sicher, dass die Behörde ihren Auftrag erfüllt und im Einklang mit dem EU-Rechtsrahmen arbeitet. Er hat keinen Einfluss auf die unabhängige wissenschaftliche Arbeit der EFSA. Der Verwaltungsrat hat folgende Aufgaben:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ verabschiedet das jährliche und mehrjährige Arbeitsprogramm der EFSA, den jährlichen Tätigkeitsbericht und den Haushaltsplan ➤ erstellt die Liste der zuständigen EU-Organisationen, die die EFSA bei der Erfüllung ihres Auftrags unterstützen können (sog. Artikel-36-Einrichtungen) ➤ ernennt die Mitglieder des Wissenschaftlichen Ausschusses und der Wissenschaftlichen Gremien sowie den Geschäftsführenden Direktor der EFSA <p>Die Vertreter/innen der Mitgliedstaaten werden von den Mitgliedstaaten selbst nominiert und vom Europäischen Rat ernannt. Die Vertreter/innen der Zivilgesellschaft und der Interessen der Lebensmittelkette werden vom Europäischen Rat in Absprache mit dem Europäischen Parlament anhand einer von der Europäischen Kommission erstellten Liste ernannt. Die Vertreter der EU-Organen und der European Free Trade Association (EFTA)-Länder werden von den Organen und Ländern selbst ernannt.</p>
Beirat der EFSA	EFSA's Advisory Forum	<p>Das Beiratsforum (Advisory Forum) ist der Ort, an dem die EFSA und die Mitgliedstaaten zusammenkommen, um Informationen und Wissen im Zusammenhang mit der Risikobewertung von Lebensmitteln in Europa auszutauschen. Der Beirat berät den Geschäftsführenden Direktor der EFSA in Bezug auf das Arbeitsprogramm und die Priorisierung von Ersuchen um wissenschaftliche Beratung. Das Advisory Forum hat folgende Aufgaben:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Förderung der Zusammenarbeit und Vermeidung von Doppelarbeit ➤ befasst sich mit divergierenden wissenschaftlichen Gutachten ➤ Identifizierung und Charakterisierung neu auftretender Risiken <p>Die Mitglieder werden von den nationalen Lebensmittelsicherheitsbehörden der EU-Mitgliedstaaten, Islands, Norwegens und der Beobachterländer ernannt.</p>
Wissenschaftlicher Ausschuss der EFSA	EFSA's Scientific Committee	<p>Der Wissenschaftliche Ausschuss (Scientific Committee, SC) hat die Aufgabe, die Arbeit der wissenschaftlichen Gremien bei übergreifenden wissenschaftlichen Fragen zu unterstützen. Er konzentriert sich auf die Entwicklung harmonisierter Risikobewertungsmethoden in Bereichen, in denen noch keine EU-weiten Ansätze definiert sind.</p>
Wissenschaftliche Gremien der EFSA	EFSA's Scientific Panels	<p>Die Wissenschaftlichen Gremien der EFSA erarbeiten Stellungnahmen und beraten die EU-Kommission in Fragen der Lebensmittelsicherheit. Die Gremien schaffen so die wissenschaftliche Grundlage für die Entscheidungen der Kommission zur Verbesserung des gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutzes in Europa. Jedes der zehn Gremien befasst sich mit einem anderen Bereich der Lebens- und Futtermittelkette.</p>
Arbeitsgruppen der EFSA	EFSA's Working Groups	<p>Jedes der zehn wissenschaftlichen Gremien der EFSA wird durch eine oder mehrere Arbeitsgruppen (Working Groups) zu spezifischen Themen innerhalb des Gremienaufgabenbereichs unterstützt.</p>
Wissenschaftliche Netzwerke der EFSA	EFSA's Scientific Networks	<p>Die wissenschaftlichen Netzwerke der EFSA setzen sich aus nationalen Organisationen zusammen, die mit der EFSA in bestimmten Bereichen wie Datenerhebung, neu auftretende Risiken, Überwachung von Pestizidrückständen und Risikokommunikation zusammenarbeiten. Folgende Aufgaben haben die wissenschaftlichen Netzwerke:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Erleichterung eines wissenschaftlichen Kooperationsrahmens durch die Koordinierung von Aktivitäten ➤ Austausch von Informationen ➤ Entwicklung und Durchführung gemeinsamer Projekte ➤ Austausch von Fachwissen und bewährten Verfahren ➤ Koordinierung von Aktivitäten zur Risikokommunikation

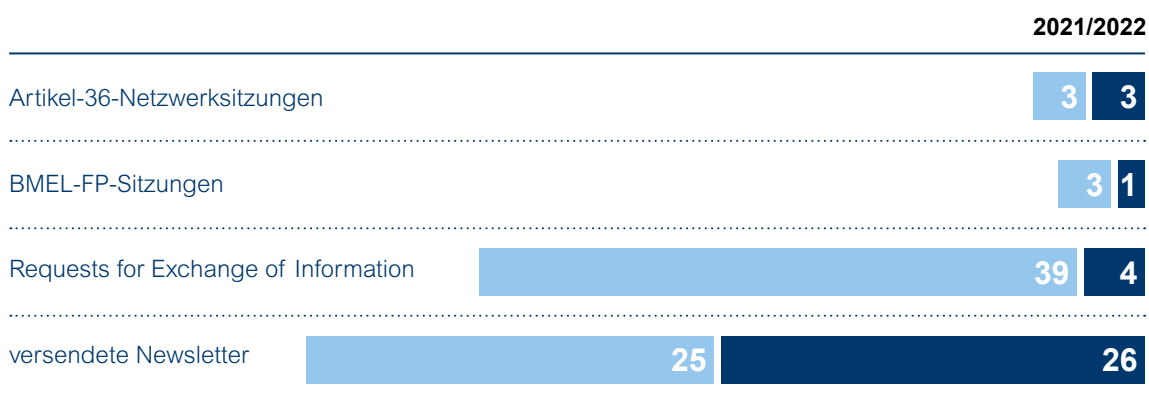
Europäische Behörde für Lebensmittelsicherheit	European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)	Zuständig für die wissenschaftliche Beratung und Kommunikation zu Risiken in der Lebensmittelkette in der Europäischen Union (EU).
EFSA-Kontaktstellen in den Mitgliedstaaten (Netzwerk der EFSA-Kontaktstellen)	EFSA Focal Points in Member States (EFSA Focal Point Network)	<p>„Die Focal Points fungieren als Knotenpunkte für Informationsaustausch, Vernetzung und Engagement und unterstützen das jeweilige Beiratsmitglied eines Mitgliedstaates. Das Netzwerk umfasst Mitglieder aus allen 27 EU-Mitgliedstaaten, Island und Norwegen sowie Beobachter aus der Schweiz und den EU-Kandidatenländern. Die Focal Points verbessern die wissenschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und die Netzwerkaktivitäten zwischen und unter den Mitgliedstaaten und der EFSA erheblich durch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unterstützung beim Austausch von wissenschaftlichen Informationen und Experten ➤ Beratung zu Kooperationsaktivitäten und wissenschaftlichen Projekten ➤ Förderung von Schulungen im Bereich der Risikobewertung ➤ Erhöhung der wissenschaftlichen Sichtbarkeit und Reichweite der EFSA in den Mitgliedstaaten <p>Die EFSA und die Focal Points treffen sich in der Regel viermal pro Jahr.“</p>
EFSA-Kontaktstelle Deutschland	EFSA Focal Point Germany	<p>Der deutsche EFSA Focal Point (EFSA FP) in der Stabsstelle Internationale Angelegenheiten im Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR) koordiniert als zentrale nationale Kontaktstelle die wissenschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und den Informationsaustausch zwischen der Europäischen Behörde für Lebensmittelsicherheit (EFSA) und den nach Artikel 36 der Gründungsverordnung der EFSA (Verordnung (EG) Nummer (Nr.) 178/2002) benannten Organisationen in Deutschland, die in den Aufgabenbereichen der EFSA tätig sind.</p> <p>Die wissenschaftliche Koordinationsarbeit des EFSA FP stellt sicher, dass eine enge Vernetzung auch zwischen den Artikel-36-Einrichtungen stattfindet, um deutsches Fachwissen effizient auf europäischer Ebene einzubringen.</p>
„Zuständige Organisationen in den Mitgliedstaaten (Artikel-36-Einrichtungen)“	„Competent organisations in Member States (Article 36 organisations)“	Die „zuständigen Organisationen“ sind Organisationen nach Artikel 36 der Gründungsverordnung der EFSA (Verordnung (EG) Nr. 178/2002) und arbeiten auf Grundlage der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 2230/2004 der Kommission vom 23. Dezember 2004. Sie unterstützen die Arbeit der EFSA wissenschaftlich und technisch, beispielsweise durch vorbereitende Arbeiten für wissenschaftliche Gutachten, durch die Erhebung von Daten oder die Identifizierung neu auftretender Risiken.
Artikel-36-Einrichtungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland		<p>Im Jahr 2022 waren folgende deutsche Einrichtungen bei der EFSA gemeldet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (BVL) ➤ Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR) ➤ Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Bundesforschungsinstitut für Tiergesundheit (FLI) ➤ Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut (TI), Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ländliche Räume, Wald und Fischerei ➤ Julius Kühn-Institut, Bundesforschungsinstitut für Kulturpflanzen (JKI) ➤ Max Rubner-Institut, Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ernährung und Lebensmittel (MRI) ➤ Umweltbundesamt (UBA)
Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft		Zuständiges Referat im Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (BMEL) in 2022 ist das Referat 312 als Ansprechpartner für die nationalen Aktivitäten im Bereich der EFSA.

Inhalt

- 08 **Regelmäßiger Informationsaustausch zwischen dem deutschen EFSA FP und dem deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerk**
Sitzungen des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerks
Sitzungen des EFSA Beirats und des Focal Point-Netzwerks
Diskussionsgruppen des EFSA Beirats
Anfragen aus den europäischen Mitgliedstaaten (Requests for Exchange of Information)
BfR World Food Safety Almanac (WFSA)
EFSA Focal Point Newsletter und Scientific Cooperation Newsletter der EFSA
- 12 **Mitwirkung der deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen in Aktivitäten der EFSA**
Mitarbeit im Wissenschaftlichen Ausschuss und in Wissenschaftlichen Gremien der EFSA
Mitarbeit in Arbeitsgruppen der EFSA
Mitarbeit in wissenschaftlichen Netzwerken der EFSA
Teilnahme an EFSA-Aufrufen zu weiteren Expert/innenbenennungen
Teilnahme an EFSA Aufrufen für Finanzhilfen (Grants)
Teilnahme an Public Consultations der EFSA
Koordination von Umfragen
- 20 **Maßnahmen der Kapazitätsentwicklung durch den deutschen EFSA FP**
Workshop zur Übermittlung von Zoonosen-Daten an die EFSA
European Food Risk Assessment (EU-FORA) Fellowship Programme
- 21 **Ausblick**
Integration des neuen operativen Rahmens in die Arbeitsstrukturen des deutschen EFSA FP
Ausbau der strategischen Netzwerkarbeit
- 23 **Anlagen**
- 30 **Abbildungsverzeichnis**
- 30 **Tabellenverzeichnis**
- 31 **Kontakt**

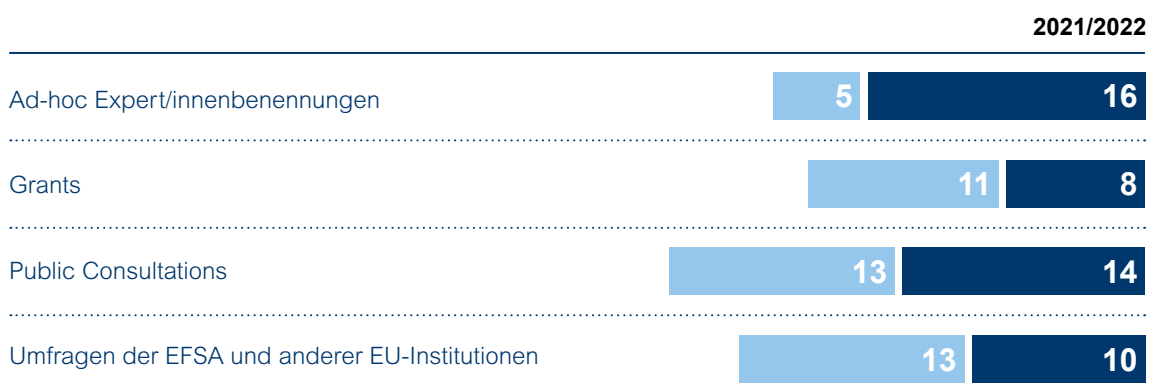
Highlights 2022

Abbildung 1: Regelmäßiger Informationsaustausch zwischen dem deutschen EFSA FP und dem deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerk



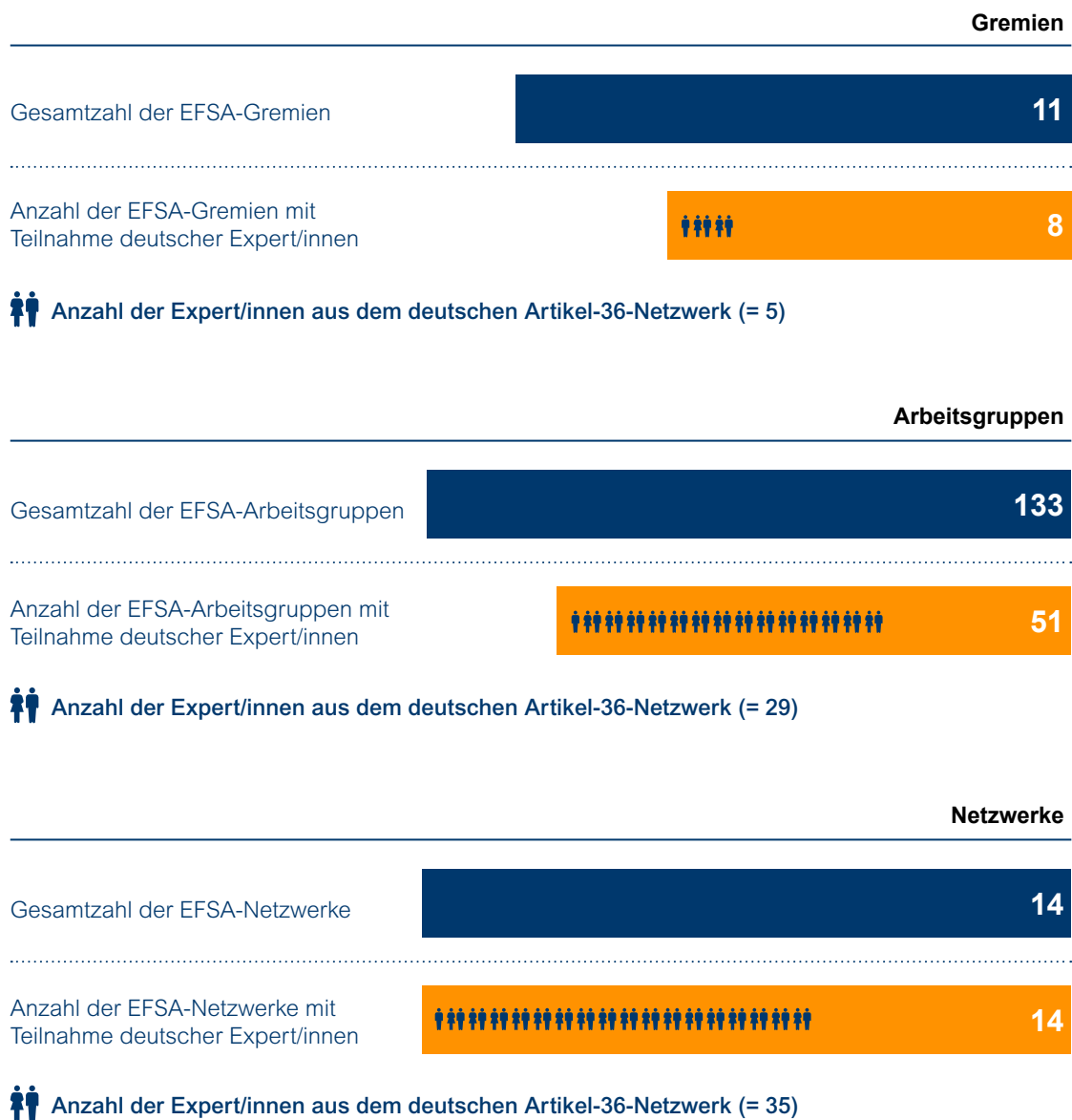
Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach dem internen Monitoring des deutschen EFSA FP, erstellt am 10.02.2023.

Abbildung 2: Mitwirkung des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerks an Aktivitäten der EFSA



Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach dem internen Monitoring des deutschen EFSA FP sowie nach Engagement & Cooperation Unit (ENCO) der EFSA, erstellt am 10.02.2023.

Abbildung 3: Mitwirkung des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerks in Expert/innengruppen der EFSA



Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach Engagement & Cooperation Unit (ENCO) der EFSA, erstellt am 10.02.2023.

Regelmäßiger Informationsaustausch zwischen dem deutschen EFSA FP und dem deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerk

Die Focal Points fungieren als Schnittstelle zwischen der EFSA und dem deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerk, das aus nationalen Lebensmittelsicherheitsbehörden sowie Forschungseinrichtungen besteht. Die Förderung des Informationsaustausches ist deshalb eine der Haupttätigkeiten des deutschen EFSA FP, um die Zusammenarbeit und Vernetzung zwischen der EFSA und diesen Einrichtungen zu stärken.

Sitzungen des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerks

Um einen reibungslosen Informationsfluss sicherzustellen, tauschen sich der deutsche EFSA FP sowie die deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen in regelmäßigen Sitzungen aus. Neben einer strategischen Sitzung zu Beginn des Jahres 2022 wurde eine fakultative Sitzung zum Thema „Daten“ durchgeführt, zu der deutsche Expert/innen aus den einschlägigen wissenschaftlichen Netzwerken der EFSA eingeladen wurden. Das Ziel bestand darin, einen instituts- und domänenübergreifenden Austausch zur datenbezogenen Zusammenarbeit mit der EFSA zu ermöglichen.

Neben dem Artikel-36-Netzwerk unterrichtete der deutsche EFSA FP das Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (BMEL) kontinuierlich über Entwicklungen in der Zusammenarbeit mit der EFSA auf nationaler und europäischer Ebene.

Ein Schwerpunktthema in 2022 war der neue operative Vertragsrahmen der Focal Points, mit dem Neuerungen hinsichtlich der FP-Aufgaben sowie der Vertragsarchitektur einhergehen. Über diese Entwicklungen wurden die Artikel-36-Einrichtungen sowie das BMEL in einer gesonderten Informationsveranstaltung durch den deutschen EFSA FP unterrichtet.

Tabelle 1: Sitzungen des EFSA-Beirats in 2022

Sitzung	Datum	Schwerpunktthema
84. Advisory Forum Meeting	08. bis 09.06.2022, online	Systematic Literature Review and the use of Artificial Intelligence
85. Advisory Forum Meeting	25. bis 26.10.2022, Prag	Advancing environmental risk assessment (ERA) methodologies: moving towards a partnership for ERA
86. Advisory Forum Meeting	06.12.2022, Berlin	Member State Risk Assessment Activities

Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach dem Monitoring des deutschen EFSA FP, erstellt am 10.02.2023.

Tabelle 2: Sitzungen des EFSA-Focal-Point-Netzwerks in 2022

Sitzung	Datum	Schwerpunktthema
48. Focal Point Meeting	18. bis 19.05.2022, Parma	New FP operational framework; Fostering Partnerships supported by EFSA's Grants and Procurement
49. Focal Point Meeting	14.09.2022, online	New FP operational framework and agreement Engagement, collaboration, and partnerships with Art.-36 organisations
50. Focal Point Meeting	08.12.2022, Berlin	New FP operational framework and activities

Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach dem Monitoring des deutschen EFSA FP, erstellt am 10.02.2023.

Sitzungen des EFSA-Beirats und des Focal-Point-Netzwerks

Im Rahmen seines Informationsauftrags berichtete der deutsche EFSA FP fortwährend und umfassend über anstehende Sitzungen des EFSA-Beirats (Advisory Forum) und des EFSA-Focal-Point-Netzwerks (Focal Point Network). In 2022 erhielten die deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen sowie das BMEL Informationen zu jeweils drei EFSA-Beiratssitzungen und Sitzungen des EFSA-Focal-Point-Netzwerks.

Diskussionsgruppen des EFSA-Beirats

Der deutsche EFSA FP unterrichtete regelmäßig zu der Arbeit in ausgewählten Diskussionsgruppen des EFSA Beirats (Advisory Forum Discussion Groups):

Zur Entwicklung des neuen operativen FP-Vertragsrahmens hat die EFSA die **Advisory Forum Steering Group on the new FP operational framework** eingerichtet, an welcher der deutsche EFSA FP aktiv mitgewirkt hat. Gemeinsam haben die Mitglieder dieser Steering Group, bestehend aus freiwilligen Beiratsmitgliedern und FPs, die FP-Aufgaben kritisch überprüft und eine neue operative und vertragsrechtliche Architektur konzipiert. Die erarbeitete Struktur wurde vom gesamten FP-Netzwerk sowie der EFSA finalisiert und ist am 1. Januar 2023 in Kraft getreten. Das Mandat der Leitungsgruppe wurde damit Ende 2022 abgeschlossen.

Das deutsche Beiratsmitglied, Prof. Dr. Dr. Andreas Hensel, sowie der deutsche EFSA FP waren in 2022 in die **Advisory Forum Discussion Group on Future of Partnerships** eingebunden. Das Ziel der Diskussionsgruppe bestand in der Erörterung und Beratung der EFSA zu horizontalen, bereichsübergreifenden und operativen Aspekten des Partnerschaftsrahmens von Kooperationsprojekten, durch welche die EFSA bei ihrer Aufgabe unterstützt und ein Beitrag zum Risikobewertungssystem in der EU ermöglicht wird. Die Diskussionsgruppe hat ihr Mandat in 2022 beendet und die Ergebnisse ihrer Arbeit in Form von Empfehlungen in einem Abschlussbericht festgehalten. Daneben hat die Diskussionsgruppe maßgeblich zu der Konzeption der FP-Aufgaben im Bereich „Engagement, collaboration and partnerships“ des neuen FP-Vertragsrahmens mitgewirkt.

Das Referat 133 des BVL vertritt Deutschland bei der **Advisory Forum Group on Data (AGoD)**, welche das Ziel verfolgt, die Empfehlungen der Advisory Forum Task Force on Data Collection and Modelling zur Vereinfachung der Datenübermittlung an die EFSA umzusetzen. Dazu wurden in 2022¹ insgesamt folgende sechs Untergruppen gegründet, um die Diskussionen auf einer detaillierteren und technischen Ebene zu fördern:

- 1) Entwicklung und gemeinsame Nutzung von Tools und Technologien
- 2) Digitale Plattformen und Ökosysteme
- 3) Innovative Datenanalyse und neue Datenströme
- 4) Datenkompetenz und Datenkapazität
- 5) Datenqualität
- 6) Datenmodellierung und Terminologie

Des Weiteren fokussierte sich die AGoD darauf, eine Führungs- und Betriebsstruktur für die langfristige Tätigkeit der Gruppe zu schaffen sowie Prioritäten und die Lancierung umsetzbarer datenbezogener Projektideen festzulegen.

Anfragen aus den europäischen Mitgliedstaaten (Requests for Exchange of Information)

Bei den wissenschaftlichen Anfragen, den sogenannten Requests for Exchange of Information, handelt es sich um spezifische Informationen zu Themen in den Bereichen Risikobewertung und Risikomanagement. Der deutsche EFSA FP hatte diese FP-Aufgabe für 2022 nicht gewählt. Drei Anfragen aus den europäischen Mitgliedstaaten (MS) wurden auf Wunsch dieser innerhalb des nationalen Artikel-36-Netzwerks dennoch koordiniert. Eine Anfrage des BMEL wurde innerhalb der Mitgliedstaaten über das EFSA-FP-Netzwerk verteilt und erhielt insgesamt 19 Antwortbeiträge, die der deutsche EFSA FP an das BMEL zurückgemeldet hat.

¹ AGoD Jahresbericht: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2023.e210401>, 28.03.2023.

Tabelle 3: Bearbeitete Anfragen der EU Mitgliedstaaten in 2022

Thema	Aufgabenbereich der EFSA	Arbeitsbereich	Anfragesteller der Mitgliedstaat
Knowledge and practice regarding the exposome concept	Animal health and welfare (AHAW)	Risikobewertung	Frankreich
	Biological hazards (BIOHAZ)		
	Contaminants (CONTAM)		
	Feed (FEEDAP)		
	Nutrition (NDA)		
	Food ingredients and packaging (ANS, CEF)		
	Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)		
Pesticides (PPR)			
Call for contact details of persons responsible for conducting food and feed safety risk assessments in European countries	Biological hazards (BIOHAZ)	Risikobewertung	Finnland
	Contaminants (CONTAM)		
Request for information on interpretation of the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to honey regarding the HMF content	Nutrition (NDA)	Risikomanagement	Österreich
Request related to UV-C treatment of foods	Nutrition (NDA)	Risikobewertung	Deutschland
	Food ingredients and packaging (ANS, CEF)	Risikomanagement	

Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach dem Monitoring des deutschen EFSA FP, erstellt am 10.02.2023.

BfR World Food Safety Almanac (WFSA)

Am 7. Juni 2022, zum Welttag der Lebensmittelsicherheit, wurde der online **BfR-Welt-Almanach zur Lebensmittelsicherheit** veröffentlicht.² Dieses Projekt wird von dem deutschen EFSA FP koordiniert und technisch vorangetrieben. Das deutsche Profil im Almanach ist eine Zusammenarbeit des deutschen EFSA FPs mit dem BMEL und den Artikel-36-Einrichtungen und informiert die Leserschaft über die deutsche Lebensmittelsicherheitsstruktur.

Seit 2009 wurde der Almanach in regelmäßig aktualisierter Form als gedrucktes Handbuch und als PDF herausgegeben, um Leser/innen einen Überblick über die Verwaltungsstrukturen verschiedener Länder in der Lebens- und Futtermittelsicherheit zu bieten. Mit dem Übergang zu einem Online-Format ist der Almanach leicht zugänglich und durchsuchbar. Darüber hinaus kann die Aktualisierung der Inhalte einer Länderseite durch jedes teilnehmende Land selbstständig vorgenommen werden. Das deutsche Profil wird ab 2023 jährlich durch das BMEL und die Artikel-36-Einrichtungen geprüft und vom deutschen EFSA FP aktualisiert.

Der deutsche EFSA FP betreute die Erstellung der Website sowie die Übertragung der Printinhalte (einschließlich 37 Länderprofile) auf die neue Website. In 2022 haben 26 Länder Benutzervereinbarungen unterzeichnet und WFSA-Konten erhalten.

Mit der Entwicklung des neuen operativen Rahmens der Focal Points ergab sich für den deutschen EFSA FP die Gelegenheit, zwei WFSA-Aufgaben für eine Finanzierung durch die EFSA einzureichen. Im Jahr 2023 werden teilnehmende Focal Points in Rahmen dieser zwei tailor-made tasks mit dem deutschen EFSA FP zusammenarbeiten, um für den Almanach zu werben, Feedback zum Almanach zu sammeln und ein Konzept für die regelmäßige Aktualisierung des WFSA zu erstellen. Ein weiteres Ziel ist es, das Projekt um weitere Länder aus verschiedenen Kontinenten zu erweitern.

EFSA Focal Point Newsletter und Scientific Cooperation Newsletter der EFSA

In 2022 wurden 26 Newsletter des deutschen EFSA FP versendet. Der Newsletter des deutschen EFSA FP wurde in einem Intervall von zwei Wochen an das deutsche Artikel-36-Netzwerk sowie an weitere interessierte Gruppen verteilt. Er beinhaltet Informationen der EFSA und EU-Mitgliedstaaten sowie internationale Neuigkeiten zu folgenden Themenbereichen:

- > Science and Regulatory Science
- > Scientific Events
- > Capacity Building
- > Grants, Procurements & Funding Calls
- > Further International Scientific Information

Der Scientific Cooperation Newsletter der EFSA bewirbt anstehende Veranstaltungen der EFSA und der Mitgliedstaaten und ist in 2022 sechsmal erschienen. Diese wurden mit dem Hinweis auf Einreichung von Beiträgen an das Artikel-36-Netzwerk weiterverteilt.

Am 7. Juni 2022, zum Welttag der Lebensmittelsicherheit, wurde der Online-BfR-Welt-Almanach zur Lebensmittelsicherheit veröffentlicht.

² Siehe Pressemitteilung des BfR: Ab sofort auch [online](#) „Der BfR-Welt-Almanach zur Lebensmittelsicherheit“, 10.02.2023.

Mitwirkung der deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen an Aktivitäten der EFSA

Externe wissenschaftliche Sachverständige stellen der EFSA ihr Wissen und ihre Erfahrung in verschiedenen Formaten zur Verfügung. Der deutsche EFSA FP leistet hierbei Expert/innen aus Deutschland Unterstützung.

Mitarbeit in wissenschaftlichen Gremien und im wissenschaftlichen Ausschuss der EFSA

Die zehn wissenschaftlichen Gremien (scientific panels) der EFSA widmen sich den folgenden Bereichen:

- > Animal Health and Welfare
- > Biological Hazards
- > Food Contact Materials, Enzymes and Processing Aids
- > Contaminants in the Food Chain
- > Food Additives and Flavourings
- > Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed
- > Genetically Modified Organisms
- > Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens
- > Plant Health
- > Plant Protection Products and their Residues

Der wissenschaftliche Ausschuss (*scientific committee*) wird zu den wissenschaftlichen Gremien gezählt. Beide bestehen aus externen Sachverständigen, die ihr Fachwissen individuell in die Gremienarbeit einbringen. In 2022 war ein Experte aus Deutschland Mitglied im wissenschaftlichen Ausschuss. 14 deutsche Expert/innen haben in sieben der zehn wissenschaftlichen Gremien

mitgewirkt. Von diesen waren fünf Expert/innen in einer deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtung beschäftigt und in fünf Gremien aktiv (siehe Tabelle 4). Die anderen neun Expert/innen arbeiteten an Universitäten oder in einer Einrichtung außerhalb des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerks, waren freiberuflich tätig oder im Ruhestand.

Die Verteilung aller deutschen Expert/innen in den Gremien der EFSA nach Organisationszugehörigkeit wird in Abbildung 4 dargestellt und ist in detaillierter Form der Anlage 1.2 zu entnehmen.

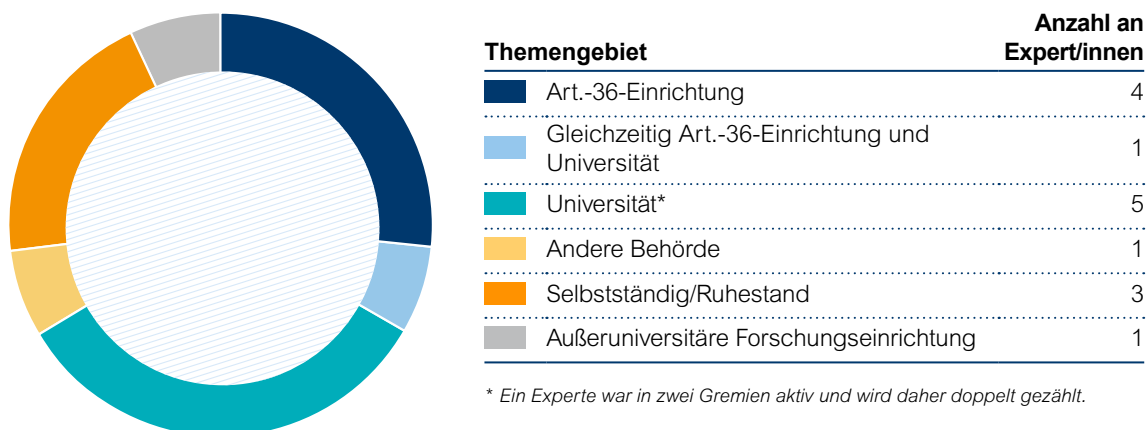
Der wissenschaftliche Ausschuss und die wissenschaftlichen Gremien werden nach einem gründlichen und transparenten Auswahlverfahren für fünf Jahre besetzt. Die nächste Neubesetzung der Gremien findet in 2024 statt. Gemeinsam mit dem deutschen Beiratsmitglied nahm der deutsche FP im Oktober 2022 an einem von EFSA organisierten Workshop teil, um den Auswahlprozess sowie die Auswahlkriterien mit den EU-Mitgliedstaaten zu diskutieren. Das Ziel bestand darin, einen möglichst diversen Pool an Expert/innen mit der Ausschreibung in 2023 anzusprechen. Der FP hat die Ausschreibung auf nationaler Ebene umfassend gestreut und im Sinne seines Informationsauftrages beworben.

Tabelle 4: Deutsche Artikel-36-Einrichtungen in Gremien der EFSA in 2022

Gremium	Institution
Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)	BfR
Food additives and flavourings (FAF)	BfR
Additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)	BfR
Nutrition, novel foods and food allergens (NDA)	BfR
Plant protection products and their residues (PPR)	UBA

Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach Engagement & Cooperation Unit (ENCO) der EFSA, erstellt am 02.02.2023.

Abbildung 4: Verteilung der deutschen Expert/innen in den Gremien der EFSA nach Organisationsform in 2022



Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach Engagement & Cooperation Unit (ENCO) der EFSA, erstellt am 02.02.2023.

Mitarbeit in Arbeitsgruppen der EFSA

Der wissenschaftliche Ausschuss, die zehn wissenschaftlichen Gremien und einige Units der EFSA werden durch Arbeitsgruppen (working groups) zu spezifischen Themen unterstützt. Die Arbeit der Arbeitsgruppen ist sehr dynamisch. Während einige Arbeitsgruppen wenige Wochen aktiv sind, arbeiten andere über mehrere Jahre. Demzufolge ist von einer ständigen Anpassung der verfügbaren Datenlage auszugehen. Die hier zitierten Zahlen entstammen den von der EFSA übermittelten Informationen vom 02.02.2023.

Die Besetzung der Arbeitsgruppen erfolgt nach einem standardisierten Prozess der EFSA. Mitglieder des Ausschusses, der Gremien sowie externe Expert/innen können für die Teilnahme an einer Arbeitsgruppe ausgewählt werden. In 2022 waren insgesamt 44 deutsche Vertreter/innen in 51 Arbeitsgruppen der EFSA aktiv. Davon waren 14 Expert/innen in mehr als einer Arbeitsgruppe beteiligt. Das deutsche Artikel-36-Netzwerk war mit 16 Wissenschaftler/innen in 25 Arbeitsgruppen vertreten (siehe Tabelle 5). Von diesen 16 waren vier Expert/innen in mehr als einer Arbeitsgruppe aktiv. Eine detaillierte Übersicht aller deutscher Expert/innen, innerhalb wie außerhalb des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerks, befindet sich in Anlage 1.3.

Der Ausschuss und die Gremien werden nach einem gründlichen und transparenten Auswahlverfahren für fünf Jahre besetzt.

Tabelle 5: Deutsche Artikel-36-Einrichtungen in Arbeitsgruppen der EFSA in 2022

Gremium	Arbeitsgruppe	Anzahl der Expert/innen	Artikel-36-Einrichtung
Animal health and welfare panel (AHAW)	African swine fever	3	FLI
	Welfare Farm To Fork	1	FLI
Food contact materials, enzymes and processing aids panel (CEP)	Food contact materials	1	BfR
	BPA re-evaluation	2	BfR
Contaminants in the food chain panel (CONTAM)	Inorganic arsenic in food	1	BfR
	Grayanotoxins in certain honey	1	BfR
	PCNs	1	BfR
	Mycotoxins in feed (DON, T2, FUMO)	1	FLI
Food additives and flavourings panel (FAF)	Sweeteners	1	BfR
	Flavourings	1	BfR
	Food additives in foods for infants	1	BfR
	Update guidance flavourings	1	BfR
	Sulphur dioxide-sulphites (E220-228)	2	BfR
	Follow-up tox	1	BfR
Additives and products or substances used in animal feed panel (FEEDAP)	Feed flavourings	2	BfR
	Toxicology	1	BfR
Genetically modified organisms panel (GMO)	Applications ComPERA 2018–2021 (WG/P/GMO/2018/04)	1	TI
Nutrition, novel foods and food allergens panel (NDA)	Novel foods	1	BfR
	Protein hydrolysate-based formula	1	BfR
Animal and plant health unit (ALPHA)	Avian influenza	1	FLI
Biological hazards and animal health and welfare unit (BIOHAW)	The fourth Joint Interagency Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance Analysis (JIACRA) (EFSA-Q-2022-00101)	1	BfR
Pesticide residues unit (PRES)	Cumulative risk assessment (CRA) of pesticides	1	BfR
Pesticide peer review unit (PREV)	Bee guidance revision	1	UBA
Scientific committee and emerging risks unit (SCER)	Cross-cutting genotoxicity	1	BfR

Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach Engagement & Cooperation Unit (ENCO) der EFSA, erstellt am 02.02.2023.

Mitarbeit in wissenschaftlichen Netzwerken der EFSA

Die wissenschaftlichen Netzwerke (scientific networks) der EFSA dienen der Koordinierung und Zusammenarbeit zwischen den Mitgliedstaaten und der EFSA zu den Themenbereichen, auf die sich der Auftrag der EFSA erstreckt. Neue Netzwerke werden von der EFSA in Absprache mit dem Beirat und mit Zustimmung des Verwaltungsrates gegründet. Die Beiratsmitglieder benennen Organisationen in ihren Ländern, die in der Lage sind, zu den Aufgaben eines bestimmten Netzwerks beizutragen. Mit administrativer Unterstützung seitens der Focal Points werden kompetente Expert/innen der benannten Organisationen formell als Mitglieder und Stellvertreter/innen nominiert.

In 2022 waren insgesamt 14 wissenschaftliche Netzwerke aktiv³, darunter wurden ein neues Netzwerk und zwei Netzwerk-Untergruppen eingerichtet sowie die Arbeit eines Netzwerks eingestellt. Sieben deutsche Einrichtungen, darunter fünf Artikel-36-Einrichtungen waren in den 14 wissenschaftlichen Netzwerken vertreten:

- > Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare
- > Scientific Network on BSE/TSE
- > Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment
- > Communication Experts Network
- > Scientific Network on Emerging Risk Exchange
- > Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed (NANO)
- > Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data
- > Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection
- > Scientific Network on Food Consumption Data
- > Scientific Network on Food Contact Materials
- > Scientific Network for Risk assessment of GMOs
- > Scientific Network on Novel Foods
- > Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Plant Health
- > Pesticide Steering Network

Insgesamt waren 53 Expert/innen aus Deutschland in den 14 wissenschaftlichen Netzwerken sowie sechs Netzwerk-Untergruppen aktiv. Von diesen 53 waren 35 Netzwerkvertreter/innen und 15 Untergruppenvertreter/innen bei Artikel-36-Einrichtungen angestellt. Der deutsche EFSA FP hat bei 14 Expertenominierungen administrativ koordiniert. Eine Übersicht aller deutschen Repräsentant/innen befindet sich in Anlage 1.5. Der Jahresbericht der EFSA zur Arbeit in den wissenschaftlichen Netzwerken befindet sich in Anlage 2.

Tabelle 6: Deutsche Artikel-36-Einrichtungen in den wissenschaftlichen Netzwerken der EFSA in 2022

Institution	Anzahl Mitglieder	Anzahl Stellvertretungen	Total
BfR	7	8	15
BVL	7	5	12
FLI	3	1	4
JKI	1	1	2
MRI	1	1	2
Total	19	16	35

Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach Engagement & Cooperation Unit (ENCO) der EFSA, erstellt am 02.02.2023.

Teilnahme an EFSA-Aufrufen zu weiteren Expert/innenbenennungen

In 2022 bearbeitete der deutsche EFSA FP insgesamt 15 Anfragen der EFSA und anderer EU-Einrichtungen nach Expert/innen für diverse Veranstaltungen wie Online-Meetings, aber auch für die Mitgliedschaft in technischen Arbeitsgruppen u. v. a. Aus den 15 Anfragen resultierten 16 Nominierungen deutscher Expert/innen, die der deutsche EFSA FP an die anfragende Stelle übermittelte.

Das vom BMEL und den deutschen EFSA FP erarbeitete Nationale Verfahren innerhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland für die Benennung von externen Sachverständigen innerhalb der Liste der Artikel-36-Einrichtungen der Europäischen Behörde für Lebensmittelsicherheit regelt die Benennung von Expert/innen im Rahmen von ad-hoc-Anfragen der EFSA auf nationaler Ebene und sichert damit das Einbringen deutschen Fachwissens innerhalb der EU. Die Benennung der fachlich relevanten Expert/innen wird durch den deutschen EFSA FP innerhalb der zuständigen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen koordiniert und im Bedarfsfall durch das deutsche Beiratsmitglied final verfügt.

Tabelle 7 gibt Auskunft über die thematische Ausrichtung der EFSA-Anfragen sowie die Beteiligung deutscher Artikel-36-Einrichtungen. So wurden mehrheitlich Expert/innen aus dem BfR sowie dem BVL nominiert.

³ Im vorliegenden Bericht werden Netzwerke und Netzwerk-Untergruppen getrennt gezählt. Untergruppen von Netzwerken werden entsprechend in der Liste der Netzwerke nicht berücksichtigt. Im Bericht der EFSA „Report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2022“ ist die IUCLID-Untergruppe des Pesticide Steering Networks in der Liste der Netzwerke enthalten. Die Gesamtzahl der Netzwerke im Bericht der EFSA beträgt somit 15.

Tabelle 7: Teilnahme von deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen an Expert/innenanfragen der EFSA und anderer Institutionen in 2022

Thema	Nominierung
Workshop on Exposure science and Call for Expression of Interests	BfR
Technical meeting with MS risk assessment representatives following the BPA stakeholder event of 24.01.2022	BfR, BVL
Discussion on the engagement methods on the area of NAMs – SPIDO	BfR
Exchange on EFSA's theme paper on future research on evidence-based risk communication	BfR
Network of contacts within the national food safety agencies – MS Publications initiative	BfR
Sub-working groups of Advisory Group on Data	BfR, BVL, MRI
Thematic Workshop on Biomarkers of Effect	BfR
EFSA Technical Group on the Tools related to the application of the Transparency Regulation (TG TOOLS)	BVL, BfR
Workshop zum Prozess des EFSA Scientific Panel Renewal am 04.10.2022	BfR
Hybrid Workshop on Data Sharing and Standardisation – Pollinator related data	BfR
BTSF on Chemical Risk Assessment, Course 1	BfR
Biomarkers of Effect – Follow-up	BfR

Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach dem Monitoring des deutschen EFSA FP, erstellt am 10.02.2023.

Teilnahme an EFSA-Aufrufen für Finanzhilfen (Grants)

Artikel-36-Organisationen sind als sogenannte **competent organisations** alleinig berechtigt, sich um Fördermittel der EFSA für Projekte und Aktivitäten zu bewerben. Gefördert werden Projekte und Aktivitäten gemäß Artikel 4 der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 2230/2004⁴ und Artikel 1 Nummer 5e der Verordnung (EU) 2019/138⁵, welche zur Auftragserfüllung der EFSA in den Bereichen Datenerhebung, vorbereitende Arbeiten für wissenschaftliche Gutachten sowie sonstige wissenschaftliche und technische Unterstützung beitragen. Der deutsche EFSA FP hat die Aufrufe der EFSA um Finanzhilfen (Grants) regelmäßig

über den Focal-Point-Newsletter verteilt. In 2022 waren acht deutsche Bewerbungen um EFSA-Finanzhilfen erfolgreich. Davon wurden sieben Bewerbungen durch das BfR und eine durch das FLI eingereicht. Die erfolgreichen Bewerbungen der deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen um EFSA-Finanzhilfen lassen sich thematisch der Tiergesundheit (Afrikanische Schweinepest), Fischvergiftung (EuroCigua II), dem Stipendienprogramm „European Food Risk Assessment (EU-FORA)“ und der Anwendung von New Approach Methodologies in der Risikobewertung von Chemikalien (NAMS4NANO) zuordnen. Tabelle 8 gibt eine Übersicht zu den genannten erfolgreichen Bewerbungen der deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen um EFSA-Finanzhilfen.

⁴ Siehe <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32004R2230>, 10.02.2023.

⁵ Siehe <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019R0138>, 10.02.2023.

Tabelle 8: Übersicht der Finanzhilfen mit begünstigten deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen in 2022

Art der Förderung	Arbeitsgruppe	Institution
Finanzhilfe	GP/EFSA/ALPHA/2021/09 Survival of African swine fever virus in feed, bedding materials and mechanical vectors and their potential role in virus transmission	BfR, FLI
Finanzhilfe	GP/EFSA/ENCO/2021/01 Selection of hosting sites and fellows for EFSA's European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship (EU-FORA) Programme – GA02-INYTA-URG&BFR	BfR
Finanzhilfe	GP/EFSA/ENREL/2022/03 Focal Point Agreements 2023–2027 – Germany	BfR
Finanzhilfe	GP/EFSA/KNOW/2022/03 An integrated approach to characterise the human health risks of ciguatoxins in fish in Europe	BfR
Finanzhilfe	GP/EFSA/MESE/2022/01 – LOT 1 NAMS4NANO: Integration of New Approach Methodologies results in chemical risk assessments: LOT 1 Review of tools and developing a qualification system for NAM's	BfR
Finanzhilfe	GP/EFSA/MESE/2022/01 – LOT 2 NAMS4NANO: Integration of New Approach Methodologies results in chemical risk assessments: LOT 2 Risk Assessment case studies	BfR
Finanzhilfe	GP/EFSA/MESE/2022/01 – LOT 3 NAMS4NANO: Integration of New Approach Methodologies results in chemical risk assessments: LOT 3 Methodological and generic case studies	BfR

Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach Engagement & Cooperation Unit (ENCO) der EFSA, erstellt am 10.02.2023.
Daten abrufbar unter <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-03/art36grants2022.pdf>

Teilnahme an Public Consultations der EFSA

In 2022 hat der deutsche EFSA FP insgesamt 14 Public Consultations (PC) der EFSA im deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerk verteilt. Der deutsche EFSA FP koordiniert ausgewählte PC von hoher Relevanz, die von der EFSA zur Verteilung an die Focal Points gesendet werden. Im Jahr 2022 gab es 12 solcher PCs. Der deutsche EFSA FP hat die deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen über die Veröffentlichung der PCs per E-Mail und im Sonderfall via EFSA Focal Point Newsletter informiert. Die Kommentierung der PCs wird von den jeweiligen Einrichtungen direkt vorgenommen.

Die vom deutschen EFSA FP verteilten PCs stammen aus Mandaten der Europäischen Kommission oder EFSA und nicht aus Antragsverfahren für die Zulassung regulierter

Stoffe und Produkte auf dem EU-Markt. Die Beauftragung der Focal Points durch die EFSA, diese PCs auf nationaler Ebene zu bewerben, deutet auf den besonderen Stellenwert und den Bedarf an hoher Beteiligung bei den jeweiligen Themen hin. Zu den 14 PCs, die der deutsche EFSA FP im Jahr 2022 auf nationaler Ebene verteilte, gehörten Konsultationen zu bereichsübergreifenden Leitlinien (cross-cutting guidances) sowie Konsultationen aus verschiedenen Lebensmittelbereichen. Einige hatten sehr spezifische Ziele, wie z. B. upper intake values oder health-based guidance values, andere wiederum verfolgten umfassendere Ziele, wie z. B. die Festlegung von methodischen Leitlinien für künftige Risikobewertungen. Besonders erwähnenswert sind die PCs zum Benchmark-Verfahren, zu Pflanzen, die durch Cisgenese oder Intragenese entwickelt wurden, und zu Nitrosaminen.

Tabelle 9: Vom EFSA FP bearbeitete EFSA Public Consultations in 2022

Lebensmittelbereich	Public Consultation
Animal welfare	➤ Methodological guidance for the development of welfare mandates in the context of Farm to Fork strategy
	➤ Draft scientific opinion on the protection of calves
Contaminants	➤ Draft scientific opinion on the human health risks related to the presence of <i>N</i> -nitrosamines (<i>N</i> -NAs) in food
Food contact materials	➤ Draft protocol for the hazard assessment as part of the risk assessment of phthalates, structurally similar substances and replacement substances potentially used as plasticisers in materials and articles intended to come into contact with food
Food improvement agents	➤ Draft guidance on the data required for the risk assessment of flavourings to be used in or on foods
GMO	➤ Draft scientific opinion on „Evaluation of existing guidelines for their adequacy for the food and feed risk assessment of genetically modified plants obtained through synthetic biology“
	➤ Draft updated scientific opinion on plants developed through cisgenesis and intragenesis
Nutrition	➤ Draft scientific opinion on the conversion of calcium-L-methylfolate and (6S)-5-methyltetrahydrofolic acid glucosamine salt into dietary folate equivalents
	➤ Draft scientific opinion on the tolerable upper intake level for selenium
Pesticides peer review	➤ Revised guidance on the risk assessment of plant protection products on bees (<i>Apis mellifera</i> , <i>Bombus</i> spp. and solitary bees)
Risk assessment methodology	➤ Draft report on the development of a harmonised approach to exposure assessment methodologies for residues from veterinary medicinal products, feed additives and pesticides in food of animal origin*
	➤ Draft scientific opinion on „Evaluation of existing guidelines for their adequacy for the food and feed risk assessment of microorganisms obtained through synthetic biology“
	➤ Updated Scientific Committee guidance on the use of benchmark dose approach in risk assessment
	➤ Draft opinion on review of existing health-based guidance values for copper

* Diese Public Consultation war eine gemeinsame Public Consultation der EFSA und der European Medicines Agency (EMA)

Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach dem internen Monitoring des deutschen EFSA FP, erstellt am 10.02.2023.

Koordinierung von Umfragen

In 2022 koordinierte der deutsche EFSA FP insgesamt neun Umfragen. Diese stammen von der EFSA, im Rahmen von europäischen Projekten oder von anderen Mitgliedstaaten und wurden entsprechend der fachlichen Zuständigkeit auf nationaler Ebene verteilt und bearbeitet.

Die Hälfte der Umfragen war vorwiegend strategischer oder technischer Natur. Diese betreffen z. B. die Strategie der EFSA (EFSA Annual Strategy Survey) oder generell Partnerschaften in Europa. Eine Übersicht aller in 2022 verteilten Umfragen ist Tabelle 10 zu entnehmen.

Tabelle 10: Verteilung von Umfragen durch den EFSA FP innerhalb des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerks in 2022

Bereich	Umfrage	Quelle der Umfrage	Verteilung an								
			BfR	BVL	FLI	JKI	MRI	TI	UBA	Sonstige	
Communi- cations	Survey to strengthen EFSA communication of scientific information	EFSA		✓							✓
	Questionnaire on the communication between risk assessors and risk managers	ENCOMRAN Projekt	✓								
Contami- nants	Call for stakeholder inputs in relation to an EFSA mandate on grayanotoxins in certain honey	EFSA	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Partner- ships	ERA-LEARN Survey on European Partnerships	ERA-LEARN Projekt	✓								
Risk assessment methodo- logy	Survey on Health-based limit values (HBLVs)	Europäische Kommission	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Strategy	EFSA Annual Strategy Survey 2022 – your views and expectations	EFSA	✓								
	Evaluation of RACFC (Risk Assessment Center on Food Chain) activities	Focal Point Bulgarien	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tools	OpenEFSA user satisfaction survey	EFSA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zoonoses	EU One Health Surveillance System questionnaire	EFSA			✓						

Quelle: Eigene Darstellung nach dem internen Monitoring des deutschen EFSA FP, erstellt am 10.02.2023.

Maßnahmen der Kapazitätsentwicklung durch den deutschen EFSA FP

Der deutsche EFSA FP setzt sich zum Ziel, die deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen bei der Wahrnehmung von Weiterbildungsangeboten zu unterstützen und somit einen wesentlichen Beitrag bei der Vermittlung von Fachwissen im Bereich Risikobewertung zu leisten.

Workshop zur Übermittlung von Zoonosen-Daten an die EFSA

Bereits in 2021 haben der deutsche und französische EFSA FP gemeinsam einen Online-Workshop zu Datensammlung und -übermittlung an die EFSA organisiert. Die erfolgreiche Zusammenarbeit wurde in 2022 fortgeführt. Das Thema Datenübermittlung an die EFSA wurde in einem Online Workshop zum Thema „Reporting Zoonoses Data to EFSA – data validation in Microstrategy and reporting of prevalence data“ wieder aufgegriffen. Insgesamt 25 Teilnehmer/innen haben grundlegende Kenntnisse über die Meldung von Prävalenzdaten an die EFSA und die Datenvalidierung in MicroStrategy erworben. Darüber hinaus wurden typische Fehler bei der Meldung und Validierung von Prävalenzdaten an die EFSA identifiziert und mögliche Lösungen erarbeitet. Eine Kombination aus Vorträgen und interaktiven Übungen hat den Teilnehmer/innen ermöglicht, das erworbene Wissen auf einfache Beispiele anzuwenden.

Der deutsche EFSA FP wurde bei der Konzipierung der Agenda maßgeblich durch das BVL beraten und wird die Kooperation mit dem französischen EFSA FP auch in 2023 fortführen.

European Food Risk Assessment (EU-FORA) Fellowship Programme⁶

Das Europäische Stipendienprogramm für die Lebensmittelrisikobewertung ist eine Schlüsselinitiative zur Vorbereitung auf den künftigen Bedarf an Risikoanalysen. Das Programm zielt darauf ab, den Pool europäischer Expert/innen für Risikobewertung im Bereich der Lebensmittelsicherheit zu vergrößern, die Beteiligung der Mitgliedstaaten an der Risikobewertung anzuregen und Netzwerke zu schaffen.

Das EU-FORA Fellowship Programme 2022/2023 wurde neu konzipiert (EU-FORA 2.0). Für die Bewerbung müssen sich zwei Artikel-36-Einrichtungen zu einem Konsortium zusammenschließen, wobei die Fellow Sending Site (Einrichtung des Fellows) der Hauptantragsteller und die Hosting Site (Gastgebereinrichtung) der Partner ist. Der Fellow bleibt 3 bis maximal 5 Monate bei der Gastgeber-einrichtung.

In 2022 hat der deutsche EFSA FP erfolgreich den Bewerbungsprozess des BfR als Gastgebereinrichtung zusammen mit dem „Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology (INYTA) University of Granada“ koordiniert. Unter dem Arbeitsprogramm „Risk Assessment of Food Contact Materials“ wurde eine Stipendiatin für einen dreimonatigen Aufenthalt am BfR aufgenommen.

Durch die Umstellung auf das neue Konzept EU-FORA 2.0 war der Bewerbungsprozess zeitaufwendiger, da Partner aktiv gesucht werden mussten. Aufgrund dieses Mehraufwandes und der verkürzten Aufenthaltsdauer des Fellows wurde in 2022 nur eine Bewerbung vom BfR eingereicht.

⁶ Weitere Informationen zu dem Stipendienprogramm könnten unter www.efsa.europa.eu/de/engage/fellowship abgerufen werden.

Ausblick

Für das Jahr 2023 legt der deutsche EFSA FP seinen Schwerpunkt auf die Integration des neuen operativen Rahmens in die bestehenden Arbeitsstrukturen sowie die erfolgreiche Umsetzung der neuen maßgeschneiderten Aufgaben. Weiterhin soll der strategische Austausch mit den deutschen Vertreter/innen der Wissenschaftlichen Netzwerke ausgebaut und verstetigt werden.

Integration des neuen operativen Rahmens in die Arbeitsstrukturen des deutschen EFSA FP

Mit dem Inkrafttreten des neuen operativen Focal Point Rahmens werden in 2023 einige Neuerungen auf den deutschen EFSA FP zukommen:

> Mehrjährig

Die Partnerschaftsrahmenvereinbarung (FPA) zwischen EFSA und den FPs hat eine Laufzeit von fünf Jahren. Der Partnerschaftsrahmenvertrag ermöglicht es den FPs, mehrere spezifische Finanzhilfevereinbarungen für verschiedene Aktivitäten und mit unterschiedlichen Durchführungszeiträumen zu unterzeichnen.

> Flexibel und maßgeschneidert

Die Aufgaben der FPs sind fünf übergreifenden Arbeitsbereichen zugeordnet:

1. Wissens- und Informationsmanagement und Unterstützung der wissenschaftlichen Produktion
2. Engagement, Zusammenarbeit und Partnerschaften
3. Kapazitätsaufbau
4. Daten
5. Risikokommunikation

Innerhalb der Arbeitsbereiche müssen die FPs mindestens zehn Hauptaktivitäten (principal tasks) durchführen und können fakultativ Projektvorschläge als sogenannte maßgeschneiderte Aktivitäten (tailor-made tasks) einreichen bzw. wählen. Diese Möglichkeit hat der deutsche EFSA FP in 2022 genutzt und für den Bereich 1 „Wissens- und Informationsmanagement und Unterstützung der wissenschaftlichen Produktion“ zwei Aufgabenvorschläge eingereicht, die einerseits die Qualitätssteigerung des gesamten Focal-Point-Netzwerks und andererseits den BfR World Food Safety Almanac betreffen. Weiterhin hat der deutsche EFSA FP im Rahmen der tailor-made tasks einen großen Fokus auf den Bereich 3 „Kapazitätsaufbau“ gelegt und wird als „Lead“ das Projekt „European Excellence Label“ in enger Kooperation mit weiteren europäischen Partnern umsetzen.

Der deutsche EFSA FP muss diese neuen Aufgaben und daraus resultierenden Prozesse in die bewährten Arbeitsstrukturen integrieren. Auch für die EFSA ist 2023 ein Pilotjahr, welches Anpassungen anstoßen kann. Für die Umsetzung dieser ist ein umfassender Austausch mit dem BMEL und den Artikel-36-Einrichtungen geplant, der auch Rückmeldungen an die EFSA vorsieht.

Ausbau der strategischen Netzwerkarbeit

Deutsche Vertreter/innen werden in 2023 weiterhin ihre Expertise in den wissenschaftlichen Netzwerken der EFSA einbringen. Dies möchte der deutsche EFSA FP durch eine umfassende und strategische Netzwerkarbeit unterstützen und so einen flüssigen Informationsaustausch in beide Richtungen gewährleisten. In 2022 hat der deutsche EFSA FP einen strategischen Schwerpunkt auf die Stärkung seiner Kontakte zu den deutschen Mitgliedern der wissenschaftlichen Netzwerke der EFSA gesetzt. Dieser Austausch soll in 2023 verstetigt und auf jährlicher Basis ausgebaut werden.

Das Ziel dieses Vorhabens ist die Stärkung der Partnerschaft zwischen dem deutschen EFSA FP und den deutschen Netzwerkteilnehmer/innen. In 2022 ermöglichten kurze Gespräche mit deutschen Teilnehmer/innen von 11 Netzwerken einen grundlegenden Überblick über die Arbeit des deutschen EFSA FP und der deutschen Expert/innen in den wissenschaftlichen Netzwerken der EFSA. Diese erhöhte Sichtbarkeit und das gegenseitige Verständnis für die Tätigkeit des jeweils anderen hat bereits erste Ergebnisse gezeigt. So konnten Kommunikationsbarrieren abgebaut werden. Der vollständige Bericht über die strategische Arbeit des deutschen EFSA FP mit den wissenschaftlichen Netzwerken im Jahr 2022 befindet sich in Anlage 3.

Anlagen

Anlage 1.1: German representation in EFSA panels, working groups and scientific networks in 2022.
List of Panel Members from Germany

Panel	No. of German members
Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)	0
Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ)	0
Food Contact Materials, Enzymes and Processing Aids (CEP)	1
Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM)	2
Food Additives and Flavourings (FAF)	5
Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP)	1
Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)	0
Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA)	2
Plant Health (PLH)	1
Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR)	2
Scientific Committee	1
Total	14*

* Ein Experte ist in zwei Gremien vertreten.

Anlage 1.2: Name and affiliation of the 15 panel members from Germany

Panel	Name	Organisation
CEP	Zorn, Holger	Justus Liebig University Giessen
CONTAM	Schrenk, Dieter	University of Kaiserslautern
	Schwerdtle, Tanja	University Potsdam German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
FAF	Degen, Gisela Heide	Retired (formerly: Leibniz Research Centre for Working Environment and Human Factors)
	Engel, Karl-Heinz	Technical University of Munich
	Fürst, Peter	Chemical and Veterinary Analytical Institute
	Gundert-Remy, Ursula	Retired (formerly: German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment [BfR])
FEEDAP	Gürtler, Rainer	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
FEEDAP	Dusemund, Birgit	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
	Hirsch-Ernst, Karen Ildico	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
NDA	Mangelsdorf, Inge	Self-employed
	Thulke, Hans-Hermann	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
PPR	Focks, Andreas	Osnabrück University
	Pieper, Silvia	German Environment Agency (UBA)
SC	Schrenk, Dieter	University of Kaiserslautern

Anlage 1.3: List of Working Group members from Germany

Panel/ Unit	Working group	Member	Affiliation
Animal health and welfare panel (AHAW)	African swine fever	Blome, Sandra	Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut – Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (FLI)
		Depner, Klaus	Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut – Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (FLI)
		Staubach, Christoph Peter Josef	Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut – Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (FLI)
		Thulke, Hans-Hermann	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
	Welfare Farm to Fork	Schrader, Lars	Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut – Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (FLI)
		Thulke, Hans-Hermann	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
		Tiemann, Inga	University of Bonn
Biological hazards panel (BIOHAZ)	Microbiological safety of aged meat	Terjung, Nino	GMT GmbH
Food contact materials, enzymes and processing aids panel (CEP)	Food contact materials	Franz, Roland	Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV
		Merkel, Stefan	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
	BPA re-evaluation	Batke, Monika	Hochschule Emden/Leer
		Gundert-Remy, Ursula	Retired (formerly: German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment [BfR])
		Mielke, Hans Ulbrich, Beate Cornelia	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
	Enzymes	Gundert-Remy, Ursula	Retired (formerly: German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment [BfR])
		Zorn, Holger	Justus Liebig University Giessen
	Extraction Solvents	Fürst, Peter	Chemical and Veterinary Analytical Institute
Contaminants in the food chain panel (CONTAM)	Feed detoxification	Metzler, Manfred	Retired (formerly: Karlsruhe Institute of Technology [KIT])
	BFRs in food	Fürst, Peter	Chemical and Veterinary Analytical Institute
	MOH in food	Goldbeck, Christophe Michael Pierre	University of Münster
	Inorganic arsenic in food	Schwerdtle, Tanja	University of Potsdam; German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
	Grayanotoxins in honey	Dusemund, Birgit	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
	PCNs	Zwickel, Theresa Franziska	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
	Mycotoxins in feed (DON, T2, FUMO)	Dänicke, Sven	Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut – Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (FLI)
	Ergot alkaloids in feed	Gropp, Jürgen Max	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
	Ambrosia seeds in feed	Gropp, Jürgen Max	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Panel/ Unit	Working group	Member	Affiliation
Food additives and flavourings panel (FAF)	Sweeteners	Batke, Monika	Hochschule Emden/Leer
		Fürst, Peter	Chemical and Veterinary Analytical Institute
		Gundert-Remy, Ursula	Retired (formerly: German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment [BfR])
		Lindtner, Oliver	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
	Flavourings	Degen, Gisela Heide	Leibniz Research Centre for Working Environment and Human Factors (IfADo)
		Engel, Karl-Heinz	Technical University of Munich
		Fürst, Peter	Chemical and Veterinary Analytical Institute
		Gürtler, Rainer	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
	Specifications of food additives	Fürst, Peter	Chemical and Veterinary Analytical Institute
	Food additives applications	Degen, Gisela Heide	Leibniz Research Centre for Working Environment and Human Factors (IfADo)
	Food additives in foods for infants	Dusemund, Birgit	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
		Fürst, Peter	Chemical and Veterinary Analytical Institute
		Gundert-Remy, Ursula	Retired (formerly: German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment [BfR])
	Update guidance flavourings	Engel, Karl-Heinz	Technical University of Munich
		Gürtler, Rainer	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
Sulphur dioxide-sulphites (E220-228)	Gundert-Remy, Ursula	Retired (formerly: German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment [BfR])	
	Gürtler, Rainer	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	
	Ulbrich, Beate Cornelia	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	
Follow-up tox	Gundert-Remy, Ursula	Retired (formerly: German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment [BfR])	
	Ulbrich, Beate Cornelia	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	
Additives and products or substances used in animal feed panel (FEEDAP)	Technological additives	Gropp, Jürgen Max	Retired (formerly: University of Leipzig)
	Feed flavourings	Dusemund, Birgit	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
		Gürtler, Rainer	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
		Schrenk, Dieter	University of Kaiserslautern
		Westendorf, Johannes Josef	University Clinic Hamburg Eppendorf
	Animal nutrition	Gropp, Jürgen Max	Retired (formerly: University of Leipzig)
		Renteria-Solis, Zaida Melina	University of Leipzig
Toxicology	Dusemund, Birgit	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	
	Gropp, Jürgen Max	Retired (formerly: University of Leipzig)	
Genetically modified organisms panel (GMO)	Applications food/feed 2018–2021	Frenzel, Thomas	Saxon State Institute of Health and Veterinary Affairs
	Applications ComPERA 2018–2021 (WG/P/GMO/2018/04)	Tebbe, Christoph	Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut – Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries (TI)
	Gene drive modified organisms (WG/P/GMO/2018/06)	Wimmer, Ernst A.	University of Göttingen

Panel/ Unit	Working group	Member	Affiliation
Nutrition, novel foods and food allergens panel (NDA)	Novel foods	Frenzel, Thomas	Saxon State Institute of Health and Veterinary Affairs
		Hirsch-Ernst, Karen Ildico	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
		Mangelsdorf, Inge	Self-employed
		Neuhäuser-Berthold, Monika	Justus Liebig University Giessen
	Protein hydrolysate- based formula	Przyrembel, Hildegard	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
Plant health panel (PLH)	High risk plants section III	Winter, Stephan	Leibniz Institute – DSMZ German collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures
	PLH – Saperda tridentata pest risk assessment (M-2019-0063)	Thulke, Hans-Hermann	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
	QPRA section 3	Thulke, Hans-Hermann	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
Plant protection products and their residues panel (PPR)	Developing IATA case studies on developmental neurotoxicity	Leist, Marcel	University of Konstanz
Scientific committee (SC)	MUST-B	Focks, Andreas	Osnabrück University
Animal and plant health unit (ALPHA)	Avian influenza	Staubach, Christoph Peter Josef	Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut – Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (FLI)
	Pest survey methods	Thulke, Hans-Hermann	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
Biological hazards and animal health and welfare unit (BIOHAW)	The fourth Joint Interagency Antimi- crobial Consumption and Resistance Analysis (JIACRA) (EFSA-Q-2022-00101)	Tenhagen, Bernd-Alois	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
Methodology and scientific support unit (MESE)	Bromide	Gropp, Jürgen Max	Retired (formerly: University of Leipzig)
Nutrition unit (NUTRI)	Traditional foods from third countries	Engel, Karl-Heinz	Technical University of Munich

Panel/ Unit	Working group	Member	Affiliation
Pesticide residues unit (PRES)	Cumulative risk assessment (CRA) of pesticides	Kneuer, Carsten	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
Pesticide peer review unit (PREV)	Bee guidance revision	Focks, Andreas	Osnabrück University
		Süßenbach, Dirk	German Environment Agency (UBA)
	Endocrine disrupting properties of pesticide active substances on humans and non-target organisms	Baumann, Lisa Annie	University of Heidelberg
	Glyphosate peer review – renewal assessment	Focks, Andreas	Osnabrück University
Scientific committee and emerging risks unit (SCER)	Cross-cutting nanotechnologies	Franz, Roland	Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV
	Cross-cutting genotoxicity	Gürtler, Rainer	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
	Cross-cutting benchmark dose	Edler, Lutz	German Cancer Research Center
	Emerging chemical risks	Fürst, Peter	Chemical and Veterinary Analytical Institute

Anlage 1.4: Overview of EFSA Networks

Unit	Title & link to network detail
BIOHAW	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)
BIOHAW	Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)
BIOHAW	Scientific Network on BSE/TSE (BSE/TSE)
FIP	Scientific Network on Food Contact Material (FCM)
HoD OFFICE	Communication Experts Network (CEN)
IDATA	Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection
IDATA	Scientific Network on Zoonoses Monitoring Data
IDATA	Scientific Network on Food Consumption Data (FCD)
KNOW	Scientific Network on Emerging Risk Exchange (EREN)
MESE	Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed (NANO)
NIF	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs (GMO)
NIF	Scientific Network on Novel Foods
PREV	Pesticide Steering Network (PSN)
PLANTS	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH Risk Assessment)

Anlage 1.5: List of Scientific Network members from Germany

BIOHAW Unit		
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (FLI)	Wilk, Inga	
	Sauter-Louis, Carola	
Scientific Network on BSE/TSE		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (FLI)	Groschup, Martin	Fast, Christine
Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Buschulte, Anja	Filter, Matthias
FIP Unit		
Scientific Network on Food Contact Material (FCM)		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Merkel, Stefan	
HoD OFFICE Unit		
Scientific Network Communication Experts Network (CEN)		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Böl, Gaby-Fleur	Fiack, Suzan
IDATA Unit		
Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL), Unit Data Analysis and Reporting	Mikolajetz, Anna	
	König, Katrin	
	Rebmann, Katharina	
Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL), Unit Monitoring Strategy and Coordination		Herrmann, Christian
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), Unit Dietary Exposure and Aggregated Exposure		Jung, Christian
Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL), Unit Food Hygiene, Inspections, Veterinary Affairs		Kühl, Nils
Scientific Network on Food Consumption Data (FCD)		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
Max Rubner-Institute, Federal Research Institute of Nutrition and Food (MRI)	Krems, Carolin	Heuer, Thorsten

Scientific Network on Zoonoses Monitoring Data		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Plaza-Rodriguez, Carolina	Tenhagen, Bernd-Alois
Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Setzer, Frauke	Heinrich, Karolin
KNOW Unit		
Scientific Network on Emerging Risk Exchange (EREN)		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Herold, Torsten	Hebel, Philipp
Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Reckzeh, Claudia	Luber, Petra
MESE Unit		
Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed (NANO)		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Sieg, Holger	Boehmert, Linda
NIF Unit		
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs (GMO)		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	Reichenbecher, Wolfram	Otto, Mathias
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)		Simon, Samson
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Scheepers, Andrea	
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)		Lampen, Alfonso
Scientific Network on Novel Foods		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Luckert, Claudia	Lietzow, Julika
Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)		Duhs, Marcel-Antoine
PREV Unit		
Pesticide Steering Network (PSN)		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Goclik, Eva	
PLANTS Unit		
Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH Risk Assessment)		
Organisation	Representative	Alternate
Julius Kühn-Institut, Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants (JKI)	Schäfer, Bernhard Carl	Pfeilstetter, Ernst

Anlage 1.6: List of scientific network sub-group participants from Germany

Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)			
Sub-group	Organisation	Representative	Alternate
One Health	Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health (FLI)	Knauf, Sascha	Dietze, Klaas
		Sauter-Louis, Carola	Staubach, Christoph
	Robert Koch-Institute (RKI)	Wilking, Hendrik	
Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data			
Sub-group	Organisation	Representative	Alternate
AMR	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Tenhagen, Bernd-Alois	
FBO	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Schewe, Thomas	
TSE	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)	Cossmann, Andrea	
WGS	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Brendebach, Holger	
	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Deneke, Carlus	
	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Schewe, Thomas	
	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Vossenkuhl, Birgit	
Pesticide Steering Network (PSN)			
Sub-group	Organisation	Representative	Alternate
IUCLID	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Diederich, Ann-Kristin	
	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Wilkening, Anne	
	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Marutzky, Daniela	
	Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)	Lösche, Marc	
	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Opialla, Tobias	
	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)	Frenzel, Falko	

➤ **Anlage 2: Report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2022**

Anlage 2 befindet sich am Ende des Tätigkeitsberichts.

➤ **Anlage 3: Fostering the Partnership between the German EFSA Focal Point and the German participants in the EFSA Scientific Networks – 2022 Report**

Anlage 3 befindet sich am Ende des Tätigkeitsberichts.

Abbildungsverzeichnis

Nr.	Erläuterung	Seite
1	Regelmäßiger Informationsaustausch zwischen dem deutschen EFSA FP und dem deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerk	04
2	Mitwirkung des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerks an Aktivitäten der EFSA	04
3	Mitwirkung des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerks in Experten/innengruppen der EFSA	05
4	Verteilung der deutschen Expert/innen in den Gremien der EFSA nach Organisationsform in 2022	11

Tabellenverzeichnis

Nr.	Erläuterung	Seite
1	Sitzungen des EFSA-Beirats in 2022	06
2	Sitzungen des EFSA-Focal-Point-Netzwerks in 2022	06
3	Bearbeitete Anfragen der EU-Mitgliedstaaten in 2022	08
4	Deutsche Artikel-36-Einrichtungen in Gremien der EFSA in 2022	10
5	Deutsche Artikel-36-Einrichtungen in Arbeitsgruppen der EFSA in 2022	12
6	Deutsche Artikel-36-Einrichtungen in den wissenschaftlichen Netzwerken der EFSA in 2022	13
7	Teilnahme von deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen an Expert/innenanfragen der EFSA und anderer Institutionen in 2022	14
8	Übersicht der Finanzhilfen mit begünstigten deutschen Artikel-36-Einrichtungen in 2022	15
9	Vom EFSA FP bearbeitete EFSA Public Consultations in 2022	16
10	Verteilung von Umfragen durch den EFSA FP innerhalb des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerks in 2022	17

Kontakt

Bei Fragen zum Jahresbericht der Zusammenarbeit des deutschen EFSA FP und des deutschen Artikel-36-Netzwerkes können Sie sich jederzeit an die Verantwortlichen wenden:

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Report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2022

Abstract

This document contains a short description of the activities of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission during the year 2022. It includes information on main deliverables, outcomes of each Network and the relevant budget.



CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	3
<i>Communication Expert Network (CEN)</i>	4
<i>Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)</i>	8
<i>Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)</i>	10
<i>Scientific Network on BSE/TSE</i>	14
<i>Scientific Network on Food Contact Material (FCM)</i>	16
<i>Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection (ChemMon DC)</i>	19
<i>Scientific Network on Food Consumption Data (FCD)</i>	21
<i>Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data</i>	23
<i>Scientific Network on Emerging Risks Exchange (EREN)</i>	27
<i>Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food Feed (NANO)</i>	29
<i>Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMO_s</i>	32
<i>Scientific Network on Novel Foods</i>	35
<i>Pesticide Steering Network</i>	37
<i>Pesticide Steering Network Iuclid Subgroup</i>	39
<i>Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health</i>	42
<i>Table 1 - – Analysis of quantitative data and graphic overview</i>	45
<i>Table 2 - – Number of meetings in 2022 per Network</i>	46
<i>Table 3 - Initial budget and cost of activities in 2022</i>	47
<i>Table 4 – Number of meeting participants in 2023</i>	48



INTRODUCTION

According to its founding regulation (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002), EFSA shall establish a system of Networks of organisations operating in the fields within EFSA's mission, the objective being to facilitate a scientific cooperation framework by the coordination of activities, the exchange of information, the development and implementation of joint projects, the exchange of expertise and best practices. The European Network meetings are organised by EFSA scientific units with Member State representatives, nominated by their country, in compliance with the [MB Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority's mission](#).

Since June 2022, the coordination and organisation of meetings of the Networks have been assigned to the RAL Unit . RAL is working closely with the Engagement & External Relations Unit (ENREL), in charge to collect nomination and monitor Terms of References, and with the scientific units in charge of the networks. In 2022, EFSA coordinated 15 Networks, created 1 new network and 2 new network subgroups, discontinued 1 network, organised a total of 29 meetings with a total of 1,423 participants. This year, some network meetings initially planned as physical meetings were held on-line, impacting on the final budget executed for EFSA Network meeting organisation.

This report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2022 is the second edition ([Report of activities of EFSA Networks for the year 2021](#)) and contains the main deliverables, main outcomes and the respective budget of each European Network.



COMMUNICATION EXPERT NETWORK (CEN)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR¹:

Risk communications is identified as one of the mandates in EFSA's founding regulations and includes acting in close collaboration with the Member States (MS) to promote coherence in the risk communication process as well as ensuring appropriate cooperation regarding public information campaigns. Co-operation in risk communications between EFSA and the Member States is the main focus for the Communications Expert Network (CEN), which is closely aligned with the Advisory Forum (AF) to support its strategic priorities and with the Transparency Regulation.

Objective 1 – Seamless coordinated communication in the EU:

- Strategic alignment with the heads of national competent authorities on issues relating to EU food safety;
- Improved coordination, preparedness and consistency in communications between EFSA and Member States on all areas within EFSA's remit, in particular, in case of diverging views, food outbreaks, and emerging risks.

Objective 2 - Shared Best Practice:

- To share best practices and guidelines in communications harnessing collective expertise and promoting harmonised ways of working.

Objective 3 - Skills and knowledge developed across Member States to facilitate and optimise Targeted Risk Communication:

- Acquired of knowledge and shared experiences in communications and risk communications to understand better the risk perceptions of target audience;
- Developed methods to meet their information needs through targeted communication methodologies and tools.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the CEN for 2022 were:

1. coherence in risk communication – communication materials on 23 of EFSA's scientific outputs were shared with CEN members ahead of publication to allow time for Member States (MS) to prepare their own activities to ensure alignment and consistency of messages to audiences. For particularly complex issues or where there was high public concern, these efforts were further supported through pre-publication teleconferences with the CEN;
2. Pan-EU campaign on food safety – the CEN played an essential role in the development and delivery of the second year of a public-facing communication campaign called #EUChooseSafeFood to raise awareness about the science behind food safety and to foster greater confidence among citizens in the food choices they make.

¹ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/cen/cen_tor.pdf



Based on a pool of communication material and messages on 11 food safety topics, national communication plans tailored to the needs of audience were developed by CEN members from 10 countries (Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal and Spain). The campaign was disseminated to national audiences via digital and social media channels, as well as via traditional media and through a range of events and initiatives with their national partner institutions and other stakeholders;

3. coordinated communication - a half-day workshop in May between EFSA and MS networks - the Focal Points (FP) and Communication Expert Network (CEN) - explored the potential to improve coordinated communication of risks in the food chain in Europe. Through a series of plenary and breakout session, around 80 MS members discussed key issues, shared thoughts on shared best practice and made recommendations to highlight key issues facilitate building a framework for coordinated communication in the EU. In the last quarter of the year, CEN members made expressions of interest to participate in initiatives in 2023 to define this framework and pilot other coordinated communication activities;
4. social research – (i) finalised a pan-European research project on "public ambiguity of the differences between hazard and risk" to be used as the basis for a future coordinated communication campaign. CEN members provided input to tailor communication materials to national audiences needs to illustrate this difference. The outputs can be used by MS in communication campaigns to increase awareness.
(ii) The findings of the 2022 Eurobarometer - an EU-wide survey with 27,000 citizens – delivered important information on food safety awareness and concerns. This report, and tailored summaries and data tools were shared with the CEN to support their own public information and outreach efforts about food safety;
5. International Risk Communication Liaison Group – several CEN members are active participants in this international network coordinated by EFSA and participated in the twice-yearly meetings to bring their perspective and expertise to the group.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 4

- 11th Meeting of the CEN – 17 May 2022
Standing items – update of relevant Advisory Forum and Focal Point activities, update on the work plan, EFSA communication activities over the next six months, and analysis of media relations activities, an update on EFSA work in the field of social science and Key Country Issues- where Member States highlighted major communication initiatives undertaken.
Ad hoc issues – New genomic techniques, EFSA ONE Conference, campaigns (#EUChooseSafeFood & Stop African Swine Fever), update on EFSA's crisis communication roadmap and an update on a prototype pan-EU website on food safety;
- 12th CEN Meeting – 26-27 October 2022
Standing items – update of relevant Advisory Forum and Focal Point activities, update on the work plan, EFSA communication activities over the next six months, and analysis of media relations activities, an update on EFSA work in the field of social science and Key Country Issues- where Member States highlighted major communication initiatives undertaken.



Ad hoc issues – coordinated communication – next steps in building an EU framework for coordinated communication; multilingualism, EFSA logo update and campaigns;

- Two support meetings:
 - June 2022 - Member State Publication Platform – EFSA Journal team led an online information session on a proposal to create a dedicated platform where Member States can publish their scientific risk assessments. The platform would be part of the digital eco-system that also contains EFSA’s own scientific work (the EFSA Journal and EFSA Technical Reports);
 - September 2022 – Online information session to present the findings of the 2022 Eurobarometer that sets out awareness and concerns of EU citizens on food safety.

Number of participants invited: 75

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the CEN were:

1. Work Plan – completion of all deliverables on the Work Plan across social science, media relations, sharing best practice and targeted risk communication;
2. coordinated communication on 23 of EFSA’s scientific outputs via prenotification of materials ahead of publication. This included three pre-publication teleconferences with the network and ongoing collaboration and communication through a shared working space with the CEN;
3. campaign outcomes – the #EUChooseSafeFood 2022 campaign delivered against its objectives of raising awareness that science - delivered by EU and national bodies – underpins food safety in Europe, as well as triggering critical think and engagement among target audiences. Surveys conducted across Member States found:
 - the campaign messages reached 46.5 million citizen (92% of the target audience 25-45 years old) in the focus countries;
 - 43% of survey respondents understood that EFSA is an independent food safety authority supporting policymakers (compared to 31% in 2021);
 - 40% of respondents agreed the campaign had improved their understanding of how the EU ensures food safety;
 - 42% agreed the campaign had made them think more critically about their food choices and food safety.
4. coordinated communication to support implementation of the Transparency Regulation – important progress was made in 2022 with CEN members contributing to proposals for the development of an EU framework for coordinated communication. Furthermore the CEN has committed to participate in initiatives in 2023 to define them more clearly and begin implementation from 2024 onwards;
5. joint development of communication products – the delivery of infographics tailored to different national audiences jointly developed by EFSA and CEN members to illustrate the difference between the concepts of ‘hazard versus risk’.

6. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 20,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 33,481€



7. Overall Assessment

The CEN made an important contribution to upholding and strengthening the trust of citizens in the EU food safety system through:

- implementation of the core work of ensuring coherence, consistency and clarity in communication of risks in the food chain in 2022 through information sharing and cooperation on key risk assessments on sugar, antimicrobial resistance and animal welfare;
- contributing to initial activities to define an EU framework for coordinated communication to meet the requirements and aspirations of the Transparency Regulation;
- campaigns – the CEN as a whole and the 10 focus countries in particular made an important contribution to raising awareness of key issues about EU food safety to citizens. Around 40% of those surveyed were now aware that food science in Europe is underpinned by science and that EFSA is an independent food safety body supporting policymakers (compared to 31% in 2021).

8. Supporting document(s)

[Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Communications Experts Network](#)

[Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the Communications Experts Network](#)



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR MICROBIOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT (MRA)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR²:

The Scientific Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA Network) strengthens the scientific cooperation in the remit of microbiological risk assessments. It aims at anticipating and reducing the duplication of activities and hence avoiding divergence of opinions. The Network is a privileged and confidential environment to share data and methodologies facilitating harmonisation of assessment practices and to assist in anticipating emerging risks in the EU.

The main overall goals of the MRA Network are:

- to improve dialogue and exchange of information among participants;
- to build mutual understanding of risk assessment principles;
- to enhance knowledge on and confidence in the scientific assessments carried out in the EU;
- to provide increased transparency in the current process among Member States and EFSA;
- to raise the harmonisation level of the risk assessments developed in the EU.

The specific objectives of the MRA Network are:

- identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration;
- identifying and avoiding duplication of efforts;
- identifying experts in specific areas and on special issues;
- sharing of data availability and quality;
- strengthening cooperation amongst risk assessors and managers;
- exchanging information between EFSA, the EU Member States and other stakeholders;
- strengthening communication and collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States and among risk assessors, risk managers and stakeholders; including national AF and FP members;
- focusing attention on and streamlining of common research needs;
- identifying potential emerging risks when addressing current issues.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the MRA Scientific Network for 2022 were:

1. Annual meeting 2022: A wide range of activities related to microbial risk assessment were presented including impact of *Vibrio* infections, activities on *Campylobacter* in broilers, *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes*, transfer of anisakid allergens to meat, risk assessment of monkey pox transmission through food and risk-based classification of food establishments as well as an invited presentation on ionophor resistance in poultry.
2. Continuous sharing and exchange of information and best practices

² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/biohazmranetworktor.pdf>



3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 22nd meeting of the Microbiological Risk Assessment Network – 18-19 October 2022, hybrid meeting.

Number of participants invited: 41

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the MRA Network were:

1. completion and publication of the Annual report of the MRA Network, reporting on the various activities at Member States level;
2. presentation of the Multi-country outbreak of monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium sequence type 34 linked to chocolate products (EFSA output published on FEB22);
3. presentation of the EFSA One Health WGS system, that interoperates with ECDC Molecular Typing system contributing to foodborne outbreak detection at EU level.

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 7,460€
2. Total cost of activities: 5,937€

6. Overall Assessment

Currently, 25 European Union Member States and two observer countries (Switzerland and Norway) are participating in the MRA Network. A wide range of activities related to microbial risk assessment were presented including impact of Vibrio infections, activities on Campylobacter in broilers, Salmonella and Listeria monocytogenes, transfer of anisakid allergens to meat, risk assessment of monkey pox transmission through food and risk-based classification of food establishments as well as an invited presentation on ionophor resistance in poultry. Activities of the EFSA BIOHAZ panel and the BIOHAW Unit were presented. The network members expressed their desire to meet twice a year, one online and one in-person meeting.

7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 22nd meeting of the Microbiological Risk Assessment Network](#)

[Minutes 22nd meeting of the Microbiological Risk Assessment Network](#)

[Annual report of the Scientific Network on Microbiological Risk Assessment 2022](#)



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE (AHAW)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR³:

The overall objectives of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment (RA) in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) are to install and enhance cooperation between Member States (MS) and EFSA, and to build a mutual understanding of RA principles of animal health and welfare in a transparent way. The network is expected to promote the harmonisation of risk assessment practices and methodologies, including harmonisation of the data collections, as well as reducing the duplication of activities by identifying and sharing current priorities.

The specific objectives of the network are:

- To facilitate harmonisation of AHAW assessment practices and methodologies by:
 - sharing best practices for animal health and welfare assessment between EFSA and MS;
 - discussing new scientific developments for animal health and welfare RA and their implications on RA practices;
 - discussing ongoing issues of animal health and welfare assessment such as new guidance documents developed or new opinions adopted;
 - focusing attention on, and the streamlining of common research and data needs that support progress in AHAW RA.
- To enhance the exchange of information and data on AHAW areas between EFSA and MS by:
 - discussing issues on quality of data required for AHAW RA purposes (standards for biological agents data collection);
 - promoting harmonised data submission to EFSA by discussing issues related to the availability of the data;
 - sharing information, data and experience in data collection and surveillance;
 - identifying and mapping expertise in specific areas and issues.
- To achieve synergies in AHAW RA activities by:
 - identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration between EFSA and MS, and between MS at national and EU level;
 - sharing and discussing ongoing animal health and animal welfare risk assessment activities to avoid duplication;
 - sharing and discussing priorities for AHAW RA at national and EU level;
 - sharing of information related to AHAW RA at national and EU level and AHAW Network through a common digital exchange platform (e.g. Teams and/or SharePoint);
 - identifying emerging risks when addressing current issues in animal health.
- To improve the collaboration between animal health and public health on nonfoodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues by:

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/ahawnetwork.pdf>



- identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration on non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health;
 - sharing and discussing ongoing non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health networks of EFSA and ECDC;
 - sharing and discussing priorities for joint risk assessments of non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues at national and EU level;
 - sharing of information and data on non-foodborne zoonotic and potential zoonotic issues between animal and public health through a common digital exchange platform (SharePoint); EFSA may entrust to the network certain tasks, in particular preparatory work for Scientific Opinions, scientific and technical assistance, and the collection of data.
- The AHAW Network has two groups divided by areas of competence:
 - Animal Health (AH)
 - Animal Welfare (AW)
 - In addition, the AHAW Network includes three other sub-groups:
 - National Contact Points (NCPs) for scientific support under Art 20 of Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing;
 - National Contact Points in the framework of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 of 21 November 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs, and repealing Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011;
 - One Health (OH).

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the AHAW Network for 2022 were:

1. annual meetings of the following groups and subgroups: AH topics, AW topics, AW subgroup of the Scientific NCPs, AH subgroup on *E. multilocularis* surveillance, AH subgroup OH;
2. adaptation of the TORs and creation of a new subgroup on One Health;
3. continuous sharing and exchange of information.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 4

- AH Network: 19th annual meeting on 27th –28th June, hybrid meeting;
- AW Network: on Oct 11th (PM-joint session with the scientific NCPs subgroup Network) and 12th (AM);
- Subgroup Scientific NCPs: on Oct 11th (PM-joint session with the AW Network) and 12th (PM);
- Subgroup OH: 1st meeting on 14th –15th November, online meeting.

Number of participants invited: 174



4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the AHAW Network were:

1. AH topics: [Annual report of the Scientific Network on Animal Health 2022](#);
2. AW topics: [Annual report of the EFSA Networks on Animal Welfare 2022](#).

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 58,412€
2. Total cost of activities: 16,210€

6. Overall Assessment

The objectives set in the ToRs were met in 2022, with particular emphasis on creating a new subgroup on One Health.

In relation to the AW topics, the participants of both the AHAW (AW) Network and the sub-group of the scientific NCPs appreciated the new format of the Network meetings with a joint session where the recently adopted Scientific Outputs under the Farm to Fork strategy have been presented as well as the ongoing AW activities carried out by EFSA. It was also appreciated to have a separate Day 2 of network meeting to focus on the exchange of information of each Network. Network members compiled ad hoc feedback surveys on the 2022 meetings and suggested to repeat the same format also for 2023.

7. Supporting document(s)

AH topics

[Agenda of the 19th meeting of the Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare](#)

[Minutes of the 19th meeting of the Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare](#)

[Agenda of the 12th meeting of the Network on E. multilocularis infection in animals](#)

[Minutes of the 12th meeting of the Network on E. multilocularis infection in animals](#)

[Agenda of the 1st meeting of the One Health subgroup](#)

[Minutes of the 1st meeting of the One Health subgroup](#)

[Annual report of the Scientific Network on Animal Health 2022](#).

AW topics

[Agenda of the 20th meeting of the AHAW Network \(AW representatives\)](#)



[Minutes of the 20th meeting of the AHAW Network \(AW representatives\)](#)

[Agenda of the annual \(7th\) meeting of the Scientific NCPs subgroup](#)

[Minutes of the annual \(7th\) meeting of the Scientific NCPs subgroup](#)

[Annual report of the EFSA Networks on Animal Welfare 2022](#)



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON BSE/TSE

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR⁴:

The Scientific Network on bovine spongiform encephalopathies and other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (BSE-TSE) strengthens the scientific cooperation in the remit of risk assessment of BSE-TSE. It aims at anticipating and reducing the duplication of activities and hence avoiding divergence of opinions. The Network is a privileged environment to share data and methodologies facilitating harmonisation of assessment practices and to assist in anticipating emerging risks in the EU.

The main overall goals of the BSE-TSE SCIENTIFIC NETWORK are:

- to improve dialogue and exchange of information among participants;
- to build mutual understanding of risk assessment principles;
- to enhance knowledge on and confidence in the scientific assessments carried out in the EU;
- to provide increased transparency in the current process among Member States and EFSA;
- to raise the harmonisation level of the risk assessments developed in the EU.

The specific objectives of the BSE-TSE SCIENTIFIC NETWORK are:

- identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration;
- identifying and avoiding duplication of efforts;
- identification of experts in specific areas and on special issues;
- sharing of data availability and quality;
- strengthening cooperation amongst risk assessors and risk managers;
- exchanging information between EFSA, Member States and other stakeholders;
- strengthening communication and collaboration between EFSA and the EU Member States and among risk assessors; risk managers and stakeholders; including national AF and FP members;
- focusing attention on and streamlining of common research needs;
- identifying potential emerging risks when addressing current issues.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the Scientific Network on BSE/TSE for 2022 were:

1. hold one meeting, preparing detailed minutes on the discussions of the network in line with the objectives;
2. invitations to the network for participating in relevant pulse check survey;
3. prepare the Annual report year 2022.

3. Meetings

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/biohazbsenetwktor.pdf>



Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 17th Meeting of the Scientific Network on BSE/TSE – 13-14 October 2022

Number of participants invited: 48

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the Scientific Network on BSE/TSE were:

1. minutes and annual report of the annual meeting published at the link in section 7;
2. a pulse survey for Network participants was delivered in 2022 regarding the scientific network format, attendance by members and observers. The majority of the members attended the meeting to catch up with scientific developments in the field, to meet colleagues from other countries and network and to listen to the updates by the EC, WOH and EFSA. Over 90% of the participants want to keep the two sessions in the annual meeting, and about half of them consider sufficient and adequate just attend the annual meeting and not to engage in other activities of the network, whereas approx. 30% recognised this was not sufficient.

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 19,220€
2. Total cost of activities: 9,799€

6. Overall Assessment

The objectives set in the ToR were met in 2022 following the return of the physical presence of some members in the network annual meeting (hybrid format) and the results of the pulse survey in which the majority of the members appreciate this network as one of the few fora available on TSE where to exchange information and knowledge and highlighted the importance of the physical meetings. The members attend the meeting to catch up with scientific developments in the field, to meet colleagues from other countries and network and to listen to the updates by the EC, WOH and EFSA. The EFSA Scientific network on BSE/TSE is identified by its members with the words: knowledge, interaction, scientific, science, exchange and useful.

7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 17th Meeting of the Scientific Network on BSE/TSE](#)

[Minutes of the 17th Meeting of the Scientific Network on BSE/TSE](#)

[Annual Report of the Scientific Network on BSE-TSE 2022](#)



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON FOOD CONTACT MATERIAL (FCM)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR⁵:

Taking into account art. 7.3 of the “Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority’s mission”, the main objective of the Network on “Food Contact Materials” is to facilitate scientific cooperation on the risk assessment activities and approaches of mutual interest to the EU Member States, Norway and Iceland, Switzerland and EFSA.

Specifically, the Network on Food Contact Materials aims to:

- provide a platform for discussion, consultation and collaboration;
- enhance cooperation between scientists involved in risk assessment;
- promote exchange of information on activities and risk assessments;
- support and harmonise risk assessment;
- avoid duplication of work and possibly anticipate and prevent divergences.

Areas for cooperation are focused on:

- sharing and discussing on activities and projects related to the safety assessment of FCM;
- exchanging on challenges and experience in the assessment such as on non-intentionally added substances (NIAS);
- promote the exchange of information through a database/table on past, current and future projects related to safety assessment of (substances used to manufacture) FCMs;
- initiate, as far as needed, the setting of small group(s) of MSs with interest in a FCM type (e.g. coatings, paper and boards) to share expertise, build common projects, contribute to and harmonise safety assessment in a FCM type or of substances of interest;
- involve MSs in the preparation of the new EFSA Guidance to take on board their expertise;
- provide training on EFSA’s approaches e.g. advanced risk assessment.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the Scientific Network on Food Contact Material for 2022 were:

1. EFSA to update on its activities, present and discuss its risk assessments, challenges and methodologies including promoting the awareness and application of EFSA Scientific Committee cross-cutting Guidance documents;
2. Member States to present and discuss their matters of interest, i.e. progress and challenges in the assessment of non-plastic FCMs and compliance testing of plastics, topic that is unavoidable (as representatives are often from national control laboratories) and kept somehow under control as it is not in the remit of EFSA but of MSs and EC. It promoted harmonisation and synergies in the assessment of FCM groups regulated at national level and in ongoing and future projects;

⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/fipnonplasticsnetworktor.pdf>



3. exchange with International and EU Institutions/agencies to update on their activities of interest for the Network;
4. organize the annual network physical meeting;
5. launch a survey on the format and content of the network.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 8th meeting of the FCM Network- 22-24 November 2022, annual plenary physical meeting.

Number of participants invited: 41

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the Scientific Network on Food Contact Material were:

1. renewal of the Mandate, published at the link provided in section 1, link to current ToR;
2. extensive minutes of the annual meeting, published at the link provided in section 7;
3. presentations made at the annual meeting, published at the link provided in section 7; Thirty presentations were made and published along with extensive minutes allowing a good sharing and 'external' visibility in the public domain including Industry.
4. the annual plenary meeting was held for two days over three days with overall 41 participants other than EFSA. The meeting allowed i) International and EU Institutions/agencies to update on their activities of interest for the Network, ii) EFSA to update on its activities, present and discuss its risk assessments, challenges and methodologies including promoting the awareness and application of EFSA Scientific Committee cross-cutting Guidance documents, iii) Member States to present and discuss their matters of interest, i.e. progress and challenges in the assessment of non-plastic FCMs and compliance testing of plastics, topic that is unavoidable (as representatives are often from national control laboratories) and kept somehow under control as it is not in the remit of EFSA but of MSs and EC. It promoted harmonisation and synergies in the assessment of FCM groups regulated at national level and in ongoing and future projects. On the latter, the practical usefulness of the EFSA "R4EU database on Member States risk assessment plans" appeared limited. It was highlighted that this useful tool should be better supported by giving access to the Network representatives and improving communication between focal points and stakeholders including Network representatives. The meeting was organized as a physical meeting, 18 participants (mostly MS representatives) joined physically and 23 by teleconference. While teleconference allows more people to join (like alternates), it complicated the discussion between participants. The meeting gathered 28 participants from 24 Member States, 1 representant from International Institution (Council of Europe), several representants from EU sister Agency (ECHA), 2 experts from the EFSA FCM WG and representants from EC JRC and EC DG SANTE. This provided an extensive 'internal' visibility and involvement allowing notably to share the same level of information and discussion at the same time amongst all participants. Thirty presentations were made and published along with extensive minutes allowing a good sharing and 'external' visibility in the public domain including Industry.



The meeting allowed i) International and EU Institutions/agencies to update on their activities of interest for the Network, ii) EFSA to update on its activities, present and discuss its risk assessments, challenges and methodologies including promoting the awareness and application of EFSA Scientific Committee cross-cutting Guidance documents, iii) Member States to present and discuss their matters of interest, i.e. progress and challenges in the assessment of non-plastic FCMs and compliance testing of plastics, topic that is unavoidable (as representatives are often from national control laboratories) and kept somehow under control as it is not in the remit of EFSA but of MSs and EC. It promoted harmonisation and synergies in the assessment of FCM groups regulated at national level and in ongoing and future projects. On the latter, the practical usefulness of the EFSA "R4EU database on Member States risk assessment plans" appeared limited. It was highlighted that this useful tool should be better supported by giving access to the Network representatives and improving communication between focal points and stakeholders including Network representatives.

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 38,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 11,079€

6. Overall Assessment

The objectives reported in the Terms of Reference are met. The draft mandate was renewed in April and a physical plenary meeting was held in October. There was a good participation (number of participants, representativity of MSs and other EU and international Institutions) and there were constructive discussions. A survey for Network participants was delivered regarding the annual plenary meeting format (4 criteria as below). MSs were happy with the meeting, in particular the duration, topics discussed and interactions. From the 17 participants who answered, the feedback survey had a score of 4.4 out of 5 points (4.6 overall satisfaction of the meeting, 4.2 for duration, 4.1 for interaction and time allocated for discussion, and 4.5 for items scheduled).

7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 8th meeting of the FCM Network](#)

[Minutes of the 8th meeting of the FCM Network](#)

[Presentations of the 8th meeting of the FCM Network](#)



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON CHEMICAL MONITORING DATA COLLECTION (CHEMMON DC)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR⁶:

The purpose of the Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection is to provide advice and assistance to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in cooperation with the European Commission on all scientific and practical matters related to the collection, analysis and reporting of data on the results of chemical monitoring (i.e. pesticide residues, veterinary medicinal product residues, contaminants and food additives) in food and feed where EFSA compiles the data and assesses the results of monitoring programmes conducted by the Member States and other reporting countries. This network was newly created in March 2019.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the ChemMon DC for 2022 were:

1. advise and assist EFSA on issues and opportunities for standardised reporting of occurrence data on chemical contaminants, residues and other regulated substances in food and feed;
2. revise the data model, related catalogues and reporting specifications for Member States and other reporting countries;
3. defining the most optimal ways to analyse the data collected;
4. participate in the process of enhancing data quality on chemical substances in food and feed for the purpose of intake/exposure and compliance assessments;
5. exchange of information and analytical results from chemical monitoring between reporting countries and EFSA, and between the reporting countries;
6. assist in activities related to data access and publication;
7. act as the national reference point for the planning and organising of data collections for chemical substances in food and feed;
8. review EFSA outputs related to the network e.g. annual reports, scientific and/or technical reports, guidance documents, reporting manuals and online reports;
9. share experience in national sampling and/or control programme design, laboratory methods, compliance assessment and follow-up actions.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 5th meeting of the Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection – 19-20 October 2022, online.

Number of participants invited: 127

⁶ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data_ToR_Chemical_Monitoring_Network.pdf



4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the CHEMMON DC were:

1. support to EFSA on the reduction in time from sample planning to the production of annual reports and data publication;
2. support to EFSA on the production of enhanced data visualisations for annual reports and dissemination of data analysis by adjusting to different stakeholder needs;
3. increase of data quality shared among EU MSs on chemical occurrence;
4. review of the chemical monitoring reporting guidelines and reporting timelines;
5. review of the minutes of the network meeting;
6. satisfaction survey on the meeting, as well as examining the criticalities found.

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 0,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

6. Overall Assessment

All objectives were met creating awareness on the next year harmonised data collection timelines for the first year. Members of the network indicated opportunity for improvements on the proactiveness in sharing the presentations in advance of the meeting. Some highlighted the benefit of having physical meeting where others would rather keep having virtual/on-line ones. Thus, future editions will be hybrid giving the option to attendees to be present in the room. It was welcomed the information received during the Network on the different projects EFSA had launched, so dissemination of information was fully met in this respect.

7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 5th meeting of the Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection](#)

[Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection](#)



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON FOOD CONSUMPTION DATA (FCD)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR⁷:

The aim of the Network on food consumption data is to support EFSA in carrying out its mission in accordance with the established standards of scientific excellence, transparency and responsiveness foreseen in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002. In particular, the network shall facilitate EFSA in the collection of high quality, up-to-date and detailed national food consumption data, as well as the collation of this information into a pan-European food consumption database hosted by EFSA.

The main objectives of the FCD Network are:

- to provide a forum for exchange of views between experts on methodologies for the collection and collation of food consumption and related data, in particular:
- to review methods and propose improvements on all issues related to food consumption data;
- to advise and reinforce the reporting and data submission formats proposed by EFSA for the collection of harmonised food consumption data to maintain their suitability for purpose;
- to advise on the integration and use of food composition data with dietary information for the assessment of nutrient intake;
- to act as a contact point between EFSA and the Member States to coordinate the collection of and accessibility to high quality, up-to-date and harmonised food consumption information.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the FCD for 2022 were:

1. to update the network on the food consumption data collection activities performed by EFSA and MSs;
2. to present the suit of exposure tools available;
3. to update the network on four new projects that initiated in 2022;
4. to perform a survey on format and content of the network.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 14th Meeting of the Network on Food Consumption Data – 6 April 2022

Number of participants invited: 50

⁷ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data_TOR_FoodConsumption_2018.pdf



4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the FCD were:

1. knowledge on whether countries are thinking to apply a rolling system for collecting food consumption data in the future;
2. information for countries that did not apply for an EU Menu funding whether a survey has taken place in the meantime or is planned for the near future and its characteristics in summary;
3. understanding whether countries are using the available EFSA exposure tools;
4. information on whether there are similar initiatives to the Environmental Footprint of food database projects across Europe.

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 6,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

6. Overall Assessment

The network meeting has proven to be extremely useful for both EFSA and countries participating, characterized by a fruitful information exchange. The feedback survey had a score of 4.8 out of 5 points. Countries were happy with the topics discussed but underlined the limitations of an online meeting. A wish to have a physical meeting for year 2023 was expressed.

7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 14th Meeting of the Network on Food Consumption Data](#)

[Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Network on Food Consumption Data](#)



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR ZONOOSES MONITORING DATA

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR⁸:

The main objective of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data is to advise and assist the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in cooperation with the European Commission on all scientific and practical matters related to the collection, reporting and analysis of data on monitoring of zoonoses, zoonotic agents, microbiological contaminants and antimicrobial resistance in food, feed and animals, on foodborne outbreaks as well as of data on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in bovine animals, small ruminants, cervids and other species in the European Union.

The network is composed by the main zoonoses network and four specific sub-groups:

1. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
2. Foodborne outbreaks (FBO)
3. Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE)
4. Molecular typing, based on whole genome sequencing (WGS)

The Network is specifically asked to advise and assist EFSA on matters related to:

Data

The identification of priorities for the harmonisation of fit-for-purpose monitoring approaches and for the collection of data on zoonoses, FBO, AMR and TSE of European and international significance covered by the main network and the four specific subgroups.

- The identification of issues and opportunities for harmonised monitoring and reporting for Member States and other reporting countries.
- Updates of data models, related catalogues and reporting specifications for Member States and other reporting countries, in particular in the case of new data reporting requirements due to changes in the legislation.
- The participation in the process of enhancing data quality.
- The review of data collected and the participation in activities related to data access and publication.
- The nomination of the reporting officer (in the case of the main zoonoses network) and of the data providers (in the case of the TSE and WGS subgroups).
- The exchange of information and data between EFSA and Member States.
- The identification of issues and opportunities for development and use of electronic reporting, analysis and visualisation tools and databases for the data collection.
- Acting as national reference points for planning and organising data collection activities and for ensuring the exchange of information at national level.
- Coordinating at Member States level the call for data related to joint ECDC-EFSA assessments on foodborne events.

⁸ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data_ToR_Zoonoses_Network.pdf



Science

- The collation, validation, analyses, and summary of relevant scientific data in its fields of competence.
- The review of EFSA outputs related to the Network e.g. annual scientific reports, scientific and technical reports, guidance documents, reporting manuals and online reports.
- The exchange of experiences in monitoring and/or surveillance programme design and in laboratory methods.
- The discussion of cross-cutting issues with other animal and public health networks of EFSA, EU Agencies (e.g. ECDC) and the relevant European Union Reference Laboratories (EURL) for this Network and its subgroups.
- The strengthening of international and inter-institutional collaboration and transdisciplinary knowledge transfer in the area of One Health Zoonoses data integration and interpretation.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data for 2022 were:

1. review of the reporting guidance documents (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks); <List of planned activities>
2. participation of countries (MSs/RCs) to training on data collection and data reporting (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE);
3. review of the Technical specifications for a baseline survey on the prevalence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in pigs;
4. data collection and data validation (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE);
5. review of the annual One Health draft report on zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, and the annual Summary Report on AMR in humans, food producing animals and food, as well as the TSE EU summary report, and of the communication tools (dashboards and story maps);
6. review of the Zoonoses National reports;
7. review of Rapid Outbreak Assessment draft reports;
8. review of the reporting catalogues (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE);
9. participation in ad-hoc surveys (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE), such as: "Survey on feedback from the 2021 data reporting";
10. continuous sharing and exchange of information via Microsoft Teams (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, AMR, TSE);
11. review of the Terms of References with updated tasks for the new specific subgroup created (Molecular typing, based on whole genome sequencing (WGS)).

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022:4

- 1 June 2022, a subgroup meeting of FBO experts. The objective of the meeting was to inform the MSs/RCs about the changes and updates in the reporting of 2022 FBO data. The aim of the meeting was also to inform the MSs/RCs about the preparatory activities needed to adapt their national reporting systems for the reporting of the 2022 FBO data, in accordance with the new requirements.



- 20 September 2022, the 2nd specific meeting on TSE data reporting, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data was held online as a 3 hour plenary session.
- 13-14 October 2022, the 40th meeting of the Zoonoses Monitoring Data network was held as a hybrid meeting, of two days.
- 09-10 November 2022, the 12th specific meeting on AMR data reporting, Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data was held as hybrid meeting, of one and a half days.

Number of participants invited: 162

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data were:

1. Review of the reporting guidance documents (zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks):
 - Zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks guidance for reporting 2021 data: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-7131>
 - Prevalence sample-based guidance for reporting 2021 data: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-7129>
 - Manual for reporting on zoonoses and zoonotic agents, within the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC, and on some other pathogenic microbiological agents for information derived from the year 2021: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-7130>
2. Data on zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks (Zenodo repository at [Tables, figures, and country data complementing the European Union One Health Zoonoses 2021 Report | Zenodo](#), on AMR (Zenodo repository at [European Union Summary Report on Antimicrobial Resistance in Zoonotic and Indicator Bacteria from Humans, Animals and Food in 2019/2020 | Zenodo](#)) and on TSE (Zenodo repository cited by [The European Union summary report on surveillance for the presence of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies \(TSE\) in 2021 - - 2022 - EFSA Journal - Wiley Online Library](#))
3. Review of the Technical specifications for a baseline survey on the prevalence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in pigs: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7620>
4. Review of the One Health draft report on zoonoses and foodborne outbreaks, and the draft EU Summary Report on AMR in humans, food-producing animals and food, as well as the TSE EU summary report:
 - EU One Health 2021 Zoonoses report: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7666>
 - The European Union Summary Report on Antimicrobial Resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2019/2020: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7209>
 - TSE 2021 EU Summary report: available at <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7655>
5. Review of the communication tools: dashboards available at [Salmonella dashboard | EFSA \(europa.eu\)](#), [Listeria dashboard | EFSA \(europa.eu\)](#), [Campylobacter dashboard | EFSA](#)



(europa.eu) and story map available at [Salmonella story map \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com), [Listeria monocytogenes story map \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com), [Campylobacter story map \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

6. Review of the Zoonoses National reports: available at <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/data-report/biological-hazards-reports>
7. Review of the Terms of References: available at [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data ToR Zoonoses Network.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/science/Support/Data/Data%20ToR_Zoonoses_Network.pdf)

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 15,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 9,155€

6. Overall Assessment

The objectives as reported in the Terms of Reference are met. The network meeting has proven to be extremely useful for both EFSA and countries participating. Many outcomes and deliverables were obtained thanks to close collaboration and fruitful information and data exchange.

7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda and the minutes of the 2nd specific meeting on TSE data reporting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data](#)

[Agenda and the minutes of the 40th meeting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data](#)

[Agenda and the minutes of the 12th specific meeting on AMR data reporting of the Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data](#)



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON EMERGING RISKS EXCHANGE (EREN)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR⁹:

The Emerging Risk Exchange Network (EREN) was established in 2010 facilitating the exchange of information, expertise and the coordination of activities among MSs and observers. Furthermore, it built support and commitment of MSs and observers to the emerging risks identification activities of EFSA and EREN members. EREN aims to provide a platform for the scientific cooperation between risk assessors of the EU Member States, EFSA, the European Commission, and observers from other interested parties to assess newly identified emerging issues/ risks and to enhance emerging risk identification methodologies.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the EREN for 2022 were:

1. hold two yearly meetings to discuss identification and characterisation of emerging issue signals, collating and organising topic information in relevant templates for briefing notes and short issues, publishing meeting minutes and preparing detailed secretariat notes on the discussions of the network in line with the objectives;
2. annual reports for all networks jointly, including resulting activities as well as the examination of the criticalities found.
3. invitations to the network for participating in relevant surveys;
4. providing expertise in specific areas for cooperation when needed and engaging with interested and relevant stakeholders.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 2

- 27th Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting (EREN) - 11-12 May 2022, the meeting took place in hybrid format in Vienna, Austria. As reflected in the agenda, the event included core EREN discussions (7.5h) and a thematic session (4.0h) 20 years of development in emerging risk identification and crisis prevention.
- 28th Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting (EREN) - 8-9 November 2022, the meeting took place in hybrid format in Parma, Italy. As reflected in the agenda, the event included core EREN discussions (10.5) and extended for participation thematic session (4.0h) on emerging feed sources, technologies & related risks in a circular economy context, which was conducted as a joint event involving members of Emerging Risk Exchange Network (EREN), The European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) and EFSA Stakeholder Discussion Group on Emerging Risk.

Number of participants invited: 116

⁹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/emrisknetworksen.pdf>



4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the EREN were:

1. briefing notes (BN) on emerging issues on discussed subjects and updates on previous BNs in DMS archives;
2. short issues on emerging signals. Processing the identified 56 new emerging signals, suggested as "short issues", and 24 from them were qualified of potential interest and followed up with EREN;
3. two online surveys as follows: 4th and 5th Survey on Short Issues were conducted, and the results discussed at EREN meetings: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/26th_ERENsubmission Discussing the results at 27th EREN meeting. https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/27th_ERENsubmission Discussing the results at 28th EREN meeting;
4. EREN's view elicitation, in topic interviews and survey, on desired features of Emerging Risk Analysis Platform (ERAP), integrated in the Interim report on business analysis of ERAP project.

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 0,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 11,203€

6. Overall Assessment

All objectives are met, and members of the network indicated interests in future cooperation and demonstrated engagement in the development of ERAP. Awareness is raised on the filtering against the criteria for emerging risk on suggested signals from wider areas, and on the potential for utilization some of the broad information to assemble topic factsheets in relation to the new EFSA process 8.1.Environment Scanning and Strategic Options Definition.

7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 27th Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting \(EREN\)](#)

[Minutes of the 27th Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting \(EREN\)](#)

[Agenda of the 28th Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting \(EREN\)](#)

[Minutes of the 28th Emerging Risks Exchange Network meeting \(EREN\)](#)



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON RISK ASSESSMENT OF NANOTECHNOLOGIES IN FOOD FEED (NANO)

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR¹⁰:

The main objectives of the Nano Network are to:

- facilitate **harmonisation of methodologies** by sharing:
 - best practices and guidance;
 - ongoing issues that could lead to duplication or divergent opinions between EU risk assessment bodies.
- **exchange information and data** between EFSA and MS by:
 - enhancing availability and quality of data;
 - sharing data collections and surveillances from national applications.
- **providing expertise** in specific areas;
- **achieve synergies** in activities by identifying:
 - priorities for the national and EU level;
 - new relevant scientific developments;
 - priority research needs, or gaps in expertise and analytical capacity;
 - areas for mutual cooperation.

EFSA may entrust certain tasks to the network, such as collection of data and identification of emerging risks, or some preparatory work for future guidance development.

The Terms of Reference of the Nano Network were recently approved by the EFSA Advisory Forum.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the Nano Network for 2022 were:

1. organise an annual meeting 2022;
2. update the Network on the status of implementation of the recently published Guidance on technical requirements for regulated food and feed product applications to establish the presence of small particles including nanoparticles (Guidance on Particle – Technical Requirements)¹¹ and Guidance on risk assessment of nanomaterials to be applied in the food and feed chain: human and animal health (Guidance on Nano – Risk Assessment)¹² and seek feedback from the Network on possible input received by stakeholders;
3. consult the Network during the production of a new Annex on 'Degradation/dissolution rate under acidic conditions' to update the Guidance on Particle – Technical Requirements¹³,

¹⁰ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Nanonetwork.pdf>

¹¹ <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6769>

¹² <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6768>

¹³ <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6769>



before presenting it for final adoption at the 111th Plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee¹⁴;

4. invite the Network to participate to a workshop organised to brainstorm on the design of a new project on the use of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) to promote data integration in chemical risk assessment, using case studies addressing nanoscale considerations (EFSA NAMs4NANO Project¹⁵);
5. invite the Network to provide feedback on ongoing or planned activities in the field of Nanotechnology, new scientific developments, and emerging issues of concern to exchange information, facilitate harmonisation of methodologies, and identify areas for mutual cooperation;
6. invite the Network members to attend relevant trainings organised by EFSA or other institutions.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 12th Annual meeting of the Nano Network - 24-25 October 2022 held by web-conference via the Microsoft Teams platform as two plenary sessions.

Number of participants invited: 49

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the Nano Network were:

1. the present annual report, which includes the work programme and resulting outcome and activities of the Nano Network for 2022;
2. exchange with the Network on the status of implementation of the recently published EFSA Nano Guidances (the new Guidance on Particle – Technical Requirements¹⁶ and the updated Guidance on Nano – Risk Assessment¹⁷) across EFSA regulated areas, discussing a specific example in the context of feed additives risk assessment;
3. provide trainings to interested Network members organised by EFSA or other institutions, such as the online training on EFSA Nano Guidances and nanomaterials risk assessment organised by EFSA c/o Fraunhofer Institute in 2022;
4. contribution from the Network in the production of the new Annex on 'Degradation/dissolution rate under acidic conditions' to update the Guidance on Particle – Technical Requirements via an ad-hoc consultation that was organised during the preparation of the document, which is now published in the EFSA journal¹⁸;

¹⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/111th-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee>

¹⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/art36grants/article36/gpefsamese202201-nams4nano-integration-new-approach-methodologies-results>

¹⁶ <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6769>

¹⁷ <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6768>

¹⁸ <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6769>



5. contribution from interested Network members to design the new EFSA NAMs4NANO Project¹⁹ via a dedicated workshop organised in 2022, the dissemination of the publication of the call for tenders, and participation in the call for tenders;
6. active discussion was held at the 12th annual meeting with Network members to exchange on ongoing or planned activities in the field of Nanotechnology, new scientific developments, and emerging issues of concern to exchange information, with the aim to facilitate harmonisation of methodologies and identify areas for mutual cooperation. In particular:
7. no criticisms were reported from Network members for 2022;

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 0,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

6. Overall Assessment

All objectives were met. Awareness was raised to the recently adopted Terms of References and expected deliverables. In a survey sent to the Network after the meeting, members expressed appreciation for the organisation of the 12th annual meeting and the topics discussed, including the promotion for the interaction with other regulatory frameworks and international bodies.

7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 12th meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed](#)

[Minutes of the 12th meeting of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed](#)

[GP/EFSA/MESE/2022/01 - NAMS4NANO: Integration of New Approach Methodologies results in chemical risk assessments: Case studies addressing nanoscale considerations](#)

¹⁹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/art36grants/article36/gpefsamese202201-nams4nano-integration-new-approach-methodologies-results>



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR RISK ASSESSMENT OF GMO_s

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR²⁰:

To enhance discussion and scientific exchange between EFSA, the GMO Panel, and Member State experts, EFSA established in 2010 the Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs (also known as “the GMO Network”). Since then, risk assessment principles and approaches, and several guidance documents were discussed at the network meetings, providing EFSA with valuable input and facilitating harmonization of risk assessment and exchange of knowledge.

On 24 June 2021, the Management Board of the Authority has adopted the “Decision concerning the establishment and operation of European Networks of scientific organisations operating in the fields within the Authority’s mission” to optimise the operational procedures of EFSA scientific networks in accordance with the remit and strategic objectives of the Authority and ensure a greater involvement of Member State expertise in support of EFSA's mission. The terms of reference of the Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs were revised in accordance with the Decision.

The main objective of the GMO network is to build mutual understanding of the principles underlying the risk assessment of GMOs between Member States and EFSA.

The specific objectives of the GMO Network are enhancing risk assessment practices and methodologies, and the exchange of information between EFSA and Member States by:

- sharing best practices in GMO/GM food & feed risk assessment expertise and experiences;
- discussing issues regarding GMO risk assessment such as EFSA guidance documents, adopted EFSA opinions and risk assessment of specific GMOs or GM food & feed;
- discussing new scientific developments in GMO risk assessment and discussing their implications on risk assessment practices, such as the development of GMOs with new genomic techniques;
- sharing information on the development of GMOs using transgenesis and other techniques, and the consequences regarding risk assessment;
- discussing issues of availability and quality of data required for GMO risk assessment;
- sharing regular information on forthcoming EFSA consultations and other scientific cooperation activities in the field of GMO risk assessment.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the GMO Network for 2022 were:

1. hold two yearly meetings, preparing detailed minutes on the discussions of the network in line with the objectives;
2. annual reports for all networks jointly, including resulting activities as well as the examination of the criticalities found;
3. invitations to the network for participating in relevant surveys.

²⁰ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/gmonetworkstor.pdf>



3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 2

- 13th Meeting of the GMO Network: 7 April 2022
- 14th Meeting of the GMO Network: 17-18 November 2022.

Number of participants invited: 93

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

The detailed outcomes for both GMO Network meetings were published on the EFSA website (see section 7). During the year 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the GMO Network were:

1. an update on the EFSA reorganization and on aspects related to the implementation of the Transparency Regulation;
2. several aspects related to the risk assessment methodology were discussed;
3. a discussion with the MS on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) was held. The GMO Network meeting allowed the exchange views and opinions between EFSA and the Member States on the risk assessment of plants obtained by NGTs. Moreover, EFSA received an update on the activity on NGTs carried out by MS which is summarized and available in the outcome (see section 7);
4. the meeting held in November provided the opportunity to present two recently adopted EFSA outcomes on the risk assessment of plants obtained by NGTs and cisgenesis/intragenesis. These two EFSA outcomes were requested by the European Commission to support the Impact Assessment activity on the proposal for a legal framework or plants obtained by targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis and for their food and feed products. This meeting was instrumental to receive feedback from the MSs on the two EFSA outcomes. The summary of the discussion is available in the outcome (see section 7).

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 15,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

6. Overall Assessment

Two GMO Network meetings were organized in 2022 which represents an increase in the interaction with the Member States compared to previous years. Overall, the objectives set in the ToRs were met in 2022, with particular emphasis on the objective *'discussing new scientific developments in GMO risk assessment and discussing their implications on risk assessment practices, such as the development of GMOs with new genomic techniques, and the consequences regarding risk assessment'*. The publication of two EFSA outcomes on the risk assessment of plants obtained by New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) and cisgenesis/intragenesis and the concurrent EC Impact Assessment activity on the proposal for a legal framework or



plants obtained by these techniques demanded a closer dialogue between EFSA and the Member States on this topic. Therefore, a discussion focused on plants obtained by New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) and the implications for the risk assessment of such techniques was carefully planned in both GMO Network meetings in 2022.

The results of the satisfaction survey shared with the participants of the 14th GMO Network meeting (17-18 November 2022) indicated that the satisfaction of the overall meeting and its duration ranged from good to excellent, while the level of satisfaction on the interaction and time allocated for the discussion was variable. Considering the received feedback, the priority for the improvement of future meetings is to better define the meeting's agenda with the members proposals and to allow more time for the discussion on the different topics.

7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 13th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)

[Minutes of the 13th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)

[Presentation of the 13th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)

[Agenda of the 14th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)

[Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)

[Presentation of the 14th Meeting of the GMO Network](#)



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON NOVEL FOODS

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR²¹:

The role of the Novel Food Network is to provide a platform for the scientific cooperation between risk assessors of the EU Member States and EFSA in collaboration with the European Commission (EC), and to enhance risk assessment practices in the area of novel foods (NF) including traditional foods from third countries (TF) in the framework of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283.

Specifically, the NF Network aims to: facilitate the exchange of information and to enhance collaboration in the area of novel foods risk assessment; harmonise the methodology for collecting data on notifications for TF, and to harmonise the approach to streamline the submission of duly reasoned safety objections for notifications of traditional foods from third countries; avoid duplication of work. The NF Network is composed of Member State (MS) participants with experience in the safety assessment of novel foods, as well as observers from EC DG SANTE.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the NF for 2022 were:

1. EFSA shared information to MS representatives on four TF which were assessed in 2022 (providing them with literature search and informing them on the termination of the evaluation of TF. The information was provided via e-mail). EFSA acknowledges that the same information is shared with MS representatives via the EC submission e-Tool on TF, which is the official channel of communication on TF among EFSA and MS representatives

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 0

Number of participants invited: 0

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

No deliverables to be reported in 2022.

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 0,000€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

²¹ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/AF170608/AF170608-ax14.1_Terms%20of%20Reference%20of%20the%20EFSA%20Scientific%20Network%20on%20Nov....pdf



6. Overall Assessment

EFSA acknowledges that the activity of the Network met its objectives when the new Regulation on NF (Regulation (EU) 2015/2283) entered into force in 2018. The meetings held in 2017 and 2018 focused on establishing the approach to assess TF. The meeting in 2019 focused on the experience gained by EFSA and MS on the evaluation of TF. In 2021, the Network meeting was useful to explore collaboration opportunities in the field of Novel food risk assessment; information collected from Network members was used to design and frame the collaboration tasking grant that was implemented in 2022.

EFSA acknowledges that the NF Network in his current composition and expertise is strongly overlapping with the EC NF WG maintained by SANTE E2 unit. In this regard it is worth noticing that due to the transition of EC NF WG meetings from physical to online the EFSA NF team is now able to participate to all the meetings of the EC NF WG. During this participation, in consultation and upon agreement of the EC colleagues managing the WG meeting, EFSA has to opportunity to engage in scientific and methodological discussions with MSs representative that are members of that WG and consult them on specific issues. This is also one of the main reasons why, after the collaboration aimed at defining the methodology for TF assessment up to 2019, there had been little engagement and activity of the NF network.

The new Regulation on NF (Regulation (EU) 2015/2283), has centralised in EFSA the assessment of NFs which, as a consequence, has lead several MSs to reducing their activities on NFs and reprioritizing their expertise and resources earlier inputting in the EU NF assessment process.

Based on the above, the EFSA NIF Unit recommends the discontinuation of the Scientific Network on Novel Foods in its current form. EFSA is considering other types of involvement with Member States (such as consultation platforms, surveys, focus groups, etc), which would be requested "ad hoc" depending on the needs identified in the assessment of NF. Such activities could happen in consultation with the already established EC NF WG where most of the MSs expertise available to the current NF Network is also available, avoiding duplication of activities and increasing efficiency of the engagement and consultation process. The well-established collaboration with EC SANTE E2 colleagues, that participate to every EFSA NF WG and manage the EC NF WG (with meetings happening roughly on a monthly basis), has opened up the opportunity for an EFSA easier and more efficient access to the expertise available at MSs level.

7. Supporting document(s)

No supporting documents to be reported for 2022 owing to the limited activities performed in 2022.



PESTICIDE STEERING NETWORK

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR²²:

The main goals of the Pesticide Steering Network (PSN) are:

- to improve dialogue among participants;
- to build mutual understanding of risk assessment principles;
- to enhance knowledge on and confidence in the scientific assessments carried out in the EU;
- to provide increased transparency in the current process among Member States and EFSA;
- to raise the harmonisation level of the risk assessments developed in the EU.

The main objectives of the PSN are:

- plan, monitor, develop and improve the risk assessment and peer review process; PESTICIDE PEER REVIEW – PESTICIDE RESIDUES UNITS;
- integrate the risk assessment and Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) setting processes for coordinating and achieving efficiency in the implementation of the provisions of both regulatory frameworks;
- coordinate with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA);
- give advice on prioritisation and risk assessors needs in the development and the updating of risk assessment guidance documents;
- ensure the cooperation and governance for IUCLID for pesticides.

2. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 2

- 29th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network – 28 April 2022, plenary, open to observers;
- 30th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network – 20 October 2022, plenary, open to observers;

Number of participants invited: 227

3. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the PSN were:

1. new data requirements for microorganisms; initial discussion on a possible new template for the EFSA conclusion; RA micro-organisms in light of the new data requirements;
2. presentation of Cumulative Risk Assessment for craniofacial alterations;
3. presentation of OpEx Guidance/Calculator;

²² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Terms-of-Reference-Pesticide-Steering-Network.pdf>



4. presentation of progress in New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for Developmental Neurotoxicity (DNT);
5. presentation of the joint mandate for a Scientific Report on the impact of the use of azole fungicides, other than as human medicines, on the development of azole-resistant *Aspergillus* spp.;
6. practical experience in Transparency Regulation (TR) implementation and performing Completeness Check;
7. GAP-table (list of uses) in DARs/RARs/LoEP;
8. state of play on endocrine disruptors;
9. assessment of co-formulants: presentation of the EFSA technical report; Risk assessment of second active substance contained in the product for representative uses; way forward;
10. basic substances: Post-Transparency Process.

4. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 8,540€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

5. Overall Assessment

The meetings made it possible to maintain and strengthen the exchange with the MSs on topics of common interest, development on risk assessment methodology and to progress in their application. In addition, both meetings were organized with the participation of observers. Around 60 participants registered via the online registration form and were able to submit questions upon registration. Questions were discussed during the meeting, addressed individually as annex to the minute of each meeting. The observers participation pilot is providing helpful results regarding the interest aroused by the event.

6. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 29th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network](#)

[Minutes of the 29th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network](#)

[Agenda of the 30th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network](#)

[Minutes of the 30th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network](#)

[Presentations of the 30th open meeting of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network](#)



PESTICIDE STEERING NETWORK IUCLID SUBGROUP

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR²³:

The goal of the Pesticides Steering Network IUCLID sub-group is to ensure the cooperation and governance for IUCLID for pesticides.

The main objectives of the PSN IUCLID sub-group are:

- identify issues for IUCLID backlog or IUCLID project work;
- provide input to IUCLID for Pesticides configuration, filtering rules, validation rules and report templates (aligning where possible with Biocides and in future CLH), contributing to the further development of features and tools which could automate pesticide dossier processing;
- consider specific requirements for PPP dossiers;
- participate in testing IUCLID releases;
- channel all requests for changes coming from pesticides submissions to the OECD IUCLID User Group Expert Panel who is the body deciding on the IUCLID changes to be implemented;
- channel all requests for changes and proposal for improvements before the relevant yearly release of IUCLID;
- based on practical experiences using IUCLID, provide input to further refine the EFSA helpdesk support, IUCLID manual and training materials and IUCLID implementation;
- act as point of reference for all IUCLID related issues and proactively share the information within the organisations of their country or organisation;
- share experience on the "on the job practice" to contribute to the further development of common working procedures.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group for 2022 were:

1. establish working party for the optimisation of filtering rules;
2. establishing working party for the optimisation of the update of the Microorganism working context;
3. improve Report generator functionality;
4. support Member States with admissibility check;
5. improve IUCLID functionalities based on input from applicants;
6. collect requests for format changes to IUCLID before the annual release.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 4

²³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-08/tems-of-reference-iuclid-psn-subgroup.pdf>



- 2nd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group - 31 January 2022, all participants session (morning), assessors-only session (afternoon);
- 3rd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group - 4 May 2022, all participants session (morning), assessors-only session (afternoon);
- 4th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group - 22 September 2022, all participants session (morning), assessors-only session (afternoon);
- 5th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group - 5 December_2022, all participants session (morning), assessors-only session (afternoon).

Number of participants invited: 175

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outcomes of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group were:

1. admissibility checklist for pesticide applications;
2. new IUCLID validation rules;
3. new filtering rules;
4. endorsement of the new approach to Personal Data from 01 January 2023²⁴ ;
5. document "Process and responsibilities for study notification of pesticide dossiers";
6. video tutorials on "*Light check for personal data on pesticide dossiers in IUCLID*"²⁵ and "*Running the validation assistant tool on pesticide dossiers in IUCLID*"²⁶;
7. development of 7 new IUCLID documents and revision of 5 existing documents for the microorganisms IUCLID working context;
8. further development of report generator functionality (Documents L (List of literature references), MRL application report);
9. information to support the transition to the new Microorganism data requirements²⁷

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 23,912€
2. Total cost of activities: 0,000€

6. Overall Assessment

Planned activities were achieved thanks to a good overall collaboration between EFSA, ECHA and IUCLID sub-group participants. Positive feedback was received by Member States and Industry representatives during the meetings.

²⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-12/5-confidentiality-and-filtering-rules.pdf>

²⁵ <https://zenodo.org/record/6603446#.Y8pmFnbMJPa>

²⁶ <https://zenodo.org/record/6603483#.Y8pmSxbMJPa>

²⁷ <https://zenodo.org/record/7427313#.Y8-UEHbMLmg>



7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 2nd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Presentations of the 2nd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Agenda of the 3rd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Presentations of the 3rd meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Agenda of the 4th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Presentations of the 4th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Agenda of the 5th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)

[Presentations of the 5th meeting of the Pesticide Steering Network – IUCLID sub-group](#)



SCIENTIFIC NETWORK FOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN PLANT HEALTH

1. Main purpose and objectives of the Network as described in the ToR²⁸:

The overall aim of the EFSA Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health is to install and enhance cooperation between Member States (MS) and EFSA, to build a mutual understanding of RA principles in plant health in a transparent way. It is expected to promote the harmonisation of risk assessment practices and methodologies, including harmonisation of the data collection, and reduce the duplication of activities by identifying and sharing current priorities. This applies within the framework of the new EU plant health rules, adopted in October 2016 by the European Parliament and the Council²⁹.

The Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health aims to contribute to strengthening the scientific cooperation on plant health issues in the European Union. The network represents a privileged environment in which to share data and methodologies. It also enable the anticipation of emerging risks in the EU and the enhancement of the understanding of the current plant health risk assessment priorities that may need to be addressed through EFSA. This platform for cooperation in the field of plant health is based on a dynamic exchange of information among all participants.

The specific objectives of the scientific network for risk assessment in plant health are:

- To facilitate harmonisation of risk assessment practices and methodologies in plant health by:
 - sharing best practices between EFSA and the EU Member States;
 - discussing ongoing issues of plant health risk assessment such as new guidances developed or new opinions adopted;
 - discussing new scientific developments in plant health risk assessment and their implications on risk assessment practice;
 - focusing attention on and streamlining common research needs that support progress in plant health risk assessment;
 - analysing risk assessment needs and planning ahead to support the new EU Plant health law.
- To enhance exchange of information and data between EFSA and MS by:
 - discussing issues of availability and quality of data required for plant health risk assessment purposes;
 - enhancing cooperation in data collection and sharing for plant health risk assessment;
 - identifying and mapping expertise in specific areas and on specific issues.
- To achieve synergies in plant health risk assessment activities by:
 - identifying common themes and areas for mutual collaboration;
 - sharing and discussing on-going plant health risk assessment activities;

²⁸ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/plhranetworktor.pdf>

²⁹ Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against plant pests ("Plant Health Law")



- sharing and discussing priorities for plant health risk assessment at national and EU level;
- identifying new and emerging risks for EU plant health.

2. Work programme for year 2022

The main activities planned for the PLH Network for 2022 were Network meetings.

3. Meetings

Number of meetings held in 2022: 1

- 18th meeting Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH RA) – 08-09 December 2022.

Number of participants invited: 45

4. Deliverables and Outcomes:

During 2022 the main deliverables and outputs of the PLH Network were:

1. update on ongoing activities on EFSA Plant health risk assessment activities;
2. results from Art. 36 projects co-funded by EFSA and MSs were presented and discussed with the Network;
3. update on Plant Health: EFSA's social science research and upcoming awareness-raising campaign.

5. Budget

1. Initial budget for 2022: 29,206€
2. Total cost of activities: 862€

6. Overall Assessment

The 2022 Network meeting was still organised virtually to allow maximum participation also with more than one attendant per country.

The main EFSA activities on plant health risk assessment were presented and discussed with the Network, by the EFSA PLANTS unit staff and with participation also by the PLH Panel Chair. Among the topics discussed there are: pest categorisation; quantitative pest risk assessment; climate suitability including climate change scenarios; commodity risk assessment for High Risk Plants and derogations requests to provisions of the EU Plant health law; global database on host plants of *Xylella* species. An update was also provided on the EFSA plant health surveillance and monitoring activities (including the new Network on plant health surveillance). The EFSA's social science research and upcoming awareness-raising campaign in plant health were also presented and discussed. Results from Art. 36 projects co-funded by EFSA and MSs were presented and discussed as well:



- “Hotspots analysis of plant pest introductions” (HoPPI) project, an EFSA Thematic Grant Art 36 project by UCSC Piacenza (IT), UNIPD, Padova (IT) and IVIA (ES).
- “NoBa Land Cover Retriever”, a deliverable of an EFSA Partnering Grant Art 36 project by Finnish Food Authority, Estonian Agriculture and Food Board, State Plant Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

7. Supporting document(s)

[Agenda of the 18th meeting Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health \(PLH RA\)](#)

Minutes of the 18th meeting Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH RA)



ANNEXES

TABLE 1 - ANALYSIS OF QUANTITATIVE DATA AND GRAPHIC OVERVIEW

EFSA Unit	title of the network	no of meetings in 2022	2022 initial budget	2022 total cost of activities
Communication and Partnership Department	Communication Expert network (CEN)	4*	20,000 €	33,481 €
Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit	Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)	1	7,460 €	5,937 €
Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)	4**	58,412 €**	16,210 €**
Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit	Scientific Network on BSE/TSE	1	19,220 €	9,799 €
Food Ingredients and Packaging Unit	Scientific Network on Food Contact Material (FCM)	1	38,000 €	11,079 €
Integrated Data Unit	Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection (ChemMon DC)	1	0 €	0 €
Integrated Data Unit	Scientific Network on Food Consumption Data (FCD)	1	6,000 €	0 €
Integrated Data and Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Units	Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data	4**	15,000 €**	9,155 €**
Knowledge Innovation and Partnership Unit	Scientific Network on Emerging Risks Exchange (EREN)	2	0 €	11,203 €
Methodology and Scientific Support Unit	Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food Feed (NANO)	1	0 €	0 €
Nutrition and Food Innovation Unit	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment of GMOs	2	15,000 €	0 €
Nutrition and Food Innovation Unit	Scientific Network on Novel Food	0	0 €	0 €
Pesticide Peer Review Unit	Pesticide Steering Network	2	8,540 €	0 €
Pesticide Peer Review and Plant Health and Pesticides Residues Units	Pesticide Steering Network Iuclid Subgroup	4	23,912 €	0 €
Plant Health and Pesticides Residues Unit	Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health	1	29,206 €	862 €
	TOTALS	29	240,750 €	97,726 €

* Number refers to two network meetings organized, two further meetings were organized as support to the two network ones.

** Number of meetings, initial budget and total cost of activities refer to the main Network and its relevant subgroups.



TABLE 2 - NUMBER OF MEETINGS IN 2022 PER NETWORK

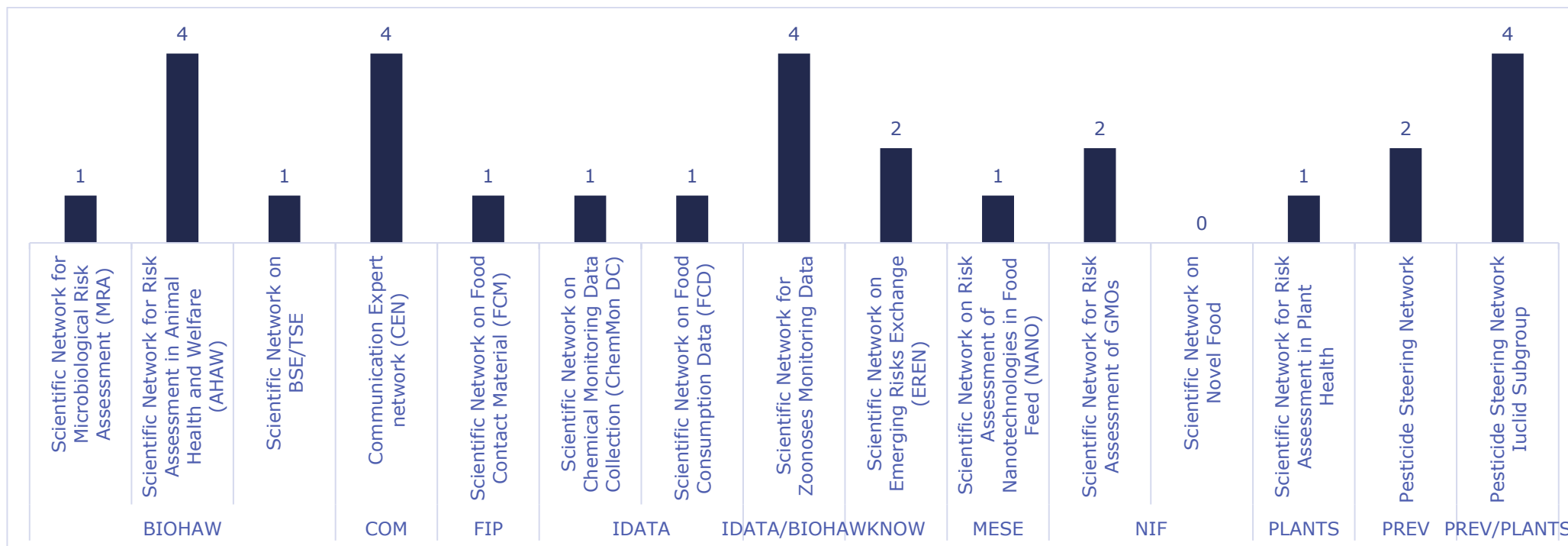




TABLE 3 - INITIAL BUDGET AND COST OF ACTIVITIES IN 2022

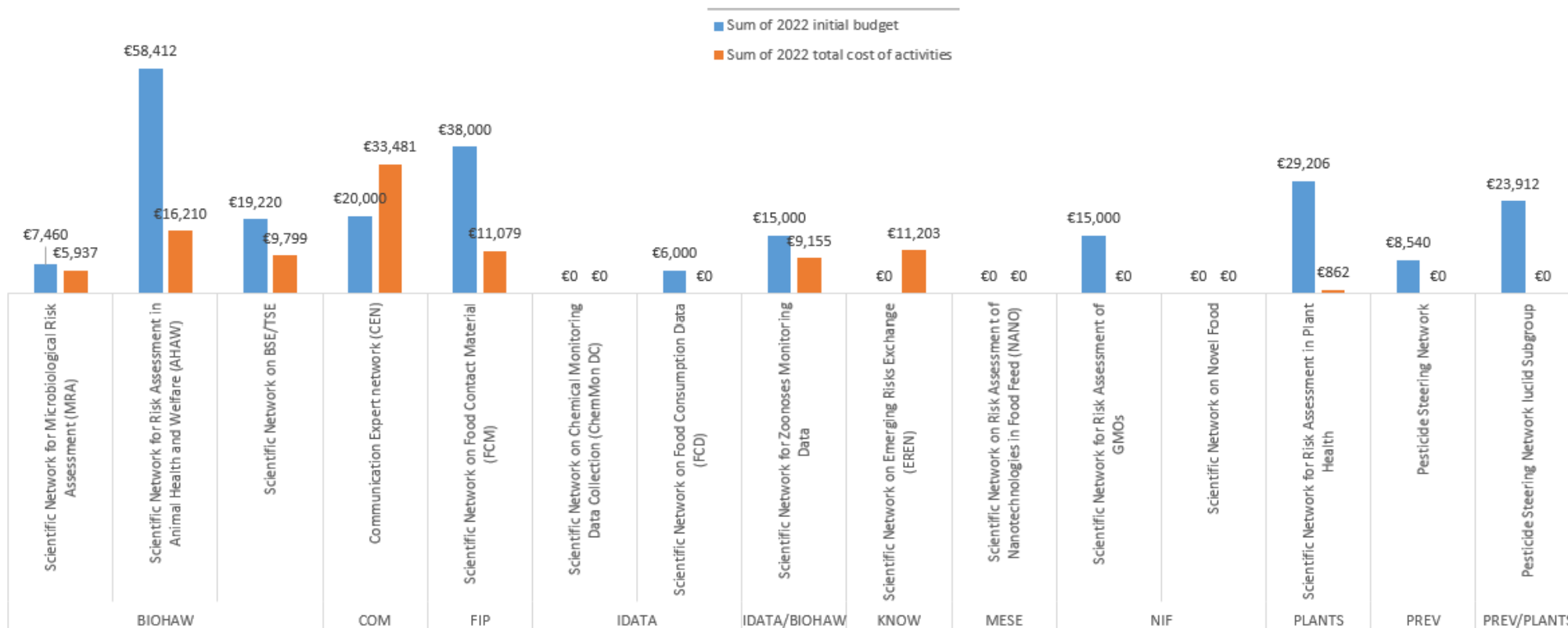
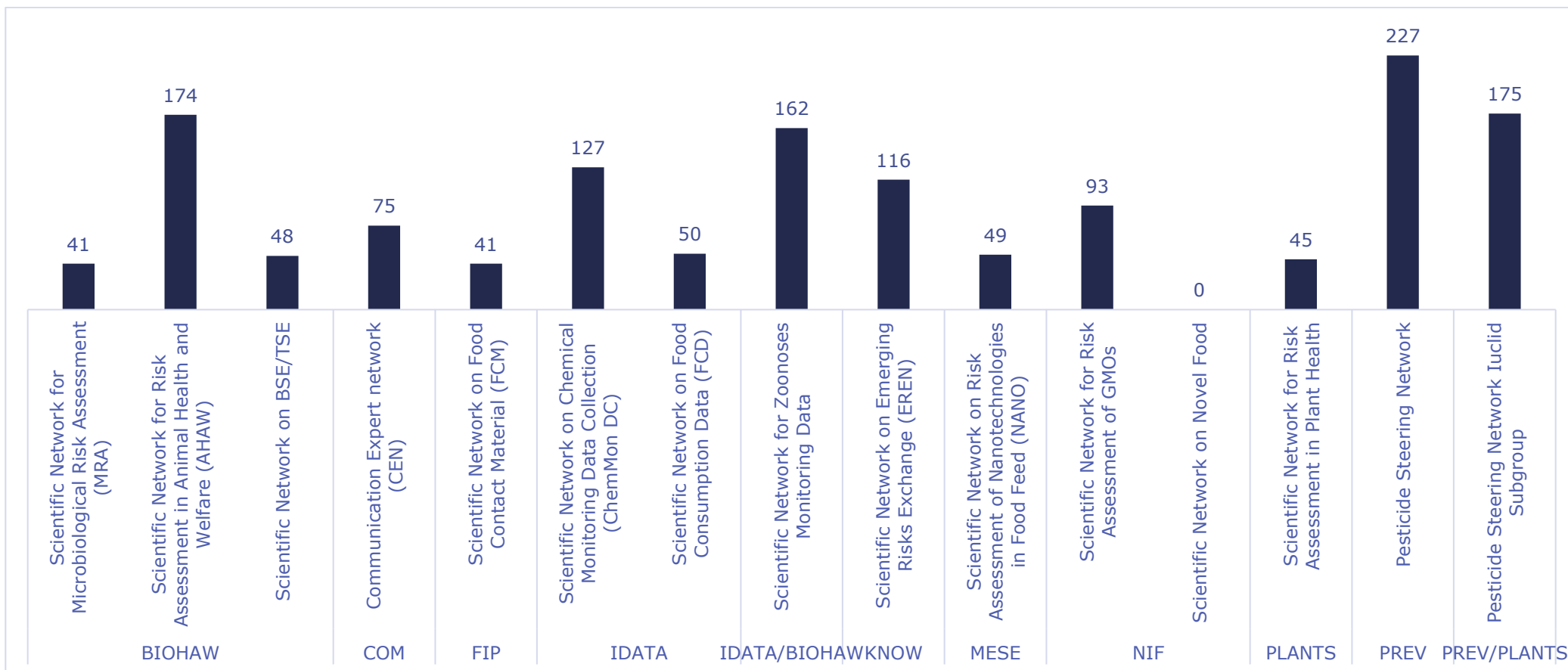




TABLE 4 – NUMBER OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS IN 2023



Fostering the Partnership between the German EFSA Focal Point and the German participants in the EFSA Scientific Networks

2022 Report

Dr. Phoebe Young, German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)¹

Introduction

The need to foster strong collaboration within the food safety community in Europe has become increasingly clear. Such partnership promotes harmonisation, supports the spread of best practices and prevents duplication of work. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) highlighted a renewed dedication to the partnership between EFSA and member states in its Strategy 2027. Similarly, the recent One Health conference underlined the need for interdisciplinary and international collaboration. As the connecting hub between EFSA and EFSA's partners in Germany, the German EFSA Focal Point (FP) shares this vision of strength through partnership.

The German Focal Point works as a liaison between EFSA and EFSA's partners in Germany, promoting information transfer, knowledge management, partnership, engagement, capacity building, coordinated data handling and good communication. In the past years, the FP has laid a solid foundation in its work supporting the German Advisory Forum member as well as in its partnership with the network of German article 36 competent organisations. With the beginning of 2022, we resolved not only to continue developing these strong partnerships, but also to place a strategic focus on strengthening our contact with the German members of EFSA's scientific networks.

An increased contact between the Focal Point and the network participants would immediately raise the visibility of the Focal Point to the network experts and grow the Focal Point's basic knowledge about the networks and network experts.

In the **short-term**, this increased familiarity should result in the following types of progress:

- Improved quantity and quality of communication in both directions,
- Facilitation of tasks such as expert nomination, information gathering and consortium building and
- Increased ability of experts and Focal Point members to speak on each other's work in spontaneous situations.

Increased networking between network experts and the German Focal Point should also indirectly result in **broader gains**, such as

- Improved communication between German experts in different networks and between German network experts and Article 36 organisations other than their own and
- Enriched collaboration between the German Focal Point and Article 36 organisation network (the Focal Point would have more points of contact in each of these organisations).

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The German Focal Point planned a year of focused contact of German network participants in 2022 as the first steps toward achieving these overall goals. In this 2022 report, we set out this project's objectives for 2022, the methods used to achieve these objectives, and the results achieved within the year. Finally, we look toward the coming years and discuss how the German Focal Point might focus its efforts to further its aim of maintaining and strengthening its partnership with the German network participants.

Targeted networks

The following EFSA scientific networks were considered the target networks² for this project:

- Scientific Network on BSE/TSE (BSE/TSE)
- Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection (ChemMon)
- Scientific Network on Emerging Risk Exchange (EREN)
- Scientific Network on Food Consumption Data (FCD)
- Scientific Network on Food Contact Material (FCM)
- Scientific Network for Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA)
- Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of Nanotechnologies in Food and Feed (NANO)
- Scientific Network on Novel Foods (Novel Foods)
- Pesticide Steering Network (PSN)
- Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW)
- Scientific Network on Risk Assessment of GMOs (GMO)
- Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH)
- Scientific Network for Zoonoses Monitoring Data (Zoonoses)³

Approach for 2022: Focused contact between the Focal Point and network participants

Until the beginning of 2022, contact between the German Focal Point and German participants in the EFSA scientific networks had been largely operative in nature. The Focal Point facilitated the nomination of experts to the networks. When networks' Terms of References were updated, the Focal Point coordinated the German AF member's comments on the revised documents. Thus, in considering how to increase our contact with the German experts in the scientific networks, we realised that the Focal Point lacked consistent contact with them and needed a better overview of their work. For their part, many experts might have limited familiarity with the Focal Point and its function.

Within the German Focal Point's **overall strategy of strengthening partnerships** with the network participants, the Focal Point set **three core objectives for 2022**:

1. The German Focal Point and the German network members should develop the habit of meeting regularly.

² Note that the Communications Expert Network (CEN) was not included, as it has a different focus than the other networks (communications rather than natural science) and as the German Focal Point has regular contact with the German CEN members. The Plant Pest Surveillance (PPS) network was established during 2022 and thus not targeted in 2022; however, the PPS network will be included in the FP's further strategic contact with the German participants in EFSA scientific networks.

³ During 2022, the name of this network was changed to "Scientific Network on Biological Monitoring Data".

2. The German Focal Point should introduce itself, its general work and its work in relation to the EFSA scientific networks to the German network members. A base-level familiarity of the German experts with the Focal Point should be established.
3. The German network members should introduce themselves and their network to the German Focal Point. The German Focal Point should achieve a base-level familiarity with the German experts and a foundational understanding of their scientific field.

We reached out to the members of each of the scientific networks to arrange meetings with them, setting up one 20-30 minute meeting per network. The Focal Point prepared for each meetings by reading the network's ToR and, where time allowed, the most recent network minutes. The meetings had no rigid agenda or standard list of questions to be answered, rather they had the following general format. Meetings began with a round of personal introductions, after which the attending Focal Point member(s) presented the work of the Focal Point and the network members introduced their network. The Focal Point moderated the meetings, adjusting the emphasis of each meeting spontaneously as appropriate.

Results in 2022

a) Meetings between the Focal Point and network participants

In 2022, the German Focal Point was able to meet with members from 11 of the 13 targeted networks. Most network members had a partial understanding of the Focal Point but welcomed the chance to get to know the Focal Point team members and to get an overview of the Focal Point's role, especially its function in relation to the German network participants. Some network members, such as certain members of the Microbial Risk Assessment (MRA) network and Emerging Risks Exchange network (EREN), were very familiar with the Focal Point's work and with the Focal Point team. A few network participants had had almost no contact with the Focal Point to date. The Focal Point was able to answer a number of questions about its work. For example, Risk Assessment in Plant Health network members asked for clarification about German representation at the EFSA Advisory Board. One of the FP tasks, the processing of MS requests for information, was a topic of discussion in meetings with members of the MRA and Novel Foods networks.

We learned that the networks have different levels of activity due to varied histories, statuses and functions. The Food Contact Materials (FCM) and Novel Foods networks are minimally active due to the current division of responsibilities between these networks and the other European bodies in their area of expertise. The MRA network meets at a reduced frequency due to a lowered budget. The content of the network meetings is also varied. In the Emerging Risks Exchange (EREN) network, MS are invited to present briefings at network meetings. The Zoonoses and Chemical Monitoring networks discuss the yearly transfer of data from the member states to EFSA. In the case of the GMO network, people in industry take the initiative to write to network members before network meetings regarding agenda topics and other topics. Members of other networks did not report such contacts from industry.

In order to achieve a solid overview of the work in the EFSA scientific networks, it is important for the FP to maintain a basic understanding of the networks' topics and of the roles of different actors in these areas. In almost all of the FP's meetings with the German network participants, the network participants went into detail on these points. For example, the German members of the Risk Assessment in Plant Health (PLH) network took the time to explain the difference between their network and the new Plant Pest Surveillance (PPS) network. They also explained the roles of various international bodies in the area of plant health, as well as which agencies represent Germany in the committees and panels of these organisations.

Network members also shared current trends and potential future challenges in their areas of work, and some pointed out which countries are particularly active in their fields. The members of the BSE-TSE network shared their opinion about the OIE recommendation for passive surveillance, and EREN network participants mentioned the establishment of a new method for the identification of emerging risks. Novel Foods network participants listed alternative protein sources, human oligosaccharides in baby formulas and CBD as current important topics. The GMO network members identified new genomic techniques (NGTs) as an ongoing hot topic, and the Food Contact Materials (FCM) network members mentioned paper as a potentially important future focus. The FCM network member also indicated which countries have national regulations of FCM and which are active in this area and explained that the FCM network will continue to discuss national regulations and risk assessments in the new few years. Thus, the network can serve as a platform for harmonising national regulations and assessment approaches.

Finally, the Focal Point and the network members had the opportunity to discuss their ideas for future partnership. In all meetings, the plan to meet regularly in the future was discussed and accepted. During our meeting with the German participants of the EREN network, the network members discussed new strategies for information exchange amongst themselves and invited the Focal Point to join future meetings of the German network members.

In this year's meetings with German network members, the Focal Point was able to give the experts a better understanding of the work of the Focal Point, increase the Focal Point's general visibility, meet many of the German network members and develop a basic overview of German experts' work in the EFSA scientific networks. At the same time, the Focal Point was able to lay a foundation for regular meetings with German network members in the future. In our experience, this increased visibility and mutual understanding have already begun to show results. An improved understanding of the network topics has helped the Focal Point identify the right contact persons in many situations, such as expert nominations and targeted dissemination of information. On a human level, barriers to communication have been lowered.

b) Article 36 meeting on data

An idea emerging from the 6th meeting of the German Article 36 network on 16 February 2022 provided a further opportunity for exchange with the German network members. The first five meetings of the German Article 36 network focused largely on operative topics. The meetings were attended by the Focal Point's contact persons in the respective organisations. At the 6th German Article 36 network, the organisations expressed interest in meetings focusing on scientific topics, with the relevant experts from the Article 36 organisations invited to join. In accordance with this proposal, the German Focal Point organised a meeting of the Article 36 network on the topic of data in July 2022. The Focal Point team invited their usual contact persons in the Article 36 network and the German members of EFSA's data-related scientific networks and encouraged them to invite anyone in their institutions who might be interested.

The meeting was attended by colleagues who usually attend the Article 36 network meetings as well as by seven colleagues who transmit data to EFSA. All three data-related EFSA scientific networks were represented: Chemical Monitoring Data Collection, Zoonoses Monitoring Data and Food Consumption Data. Colleagues from the FLI and JKI, who are not in EFSA networks, spoke on their institutes' experiences with animal health and bee data. Reports were given on collaboration with EFSA in the area of data, and meeting attendees had an open discussion about topics such as EFSA's interpretation of data transmitted to them from Germany. EFSA has established different arrangements for receiving different kinds of data. For example, food consumption data is not transmitted as regularly as chemical

monitoring data. Thus, experts from different fields could draw on different experiences when discussing common themes, such as open data and data interpretation. We believe that this method of bringing together experts from different networks and Article 36 organisations to discuss common themes may be useful for other areas. The meeting also represented a good opportunity build on the partnerships among the various attendees: the Focal Point team, the Article 36 network and the German participants in the EFSA scientific networks.

Next steps

Following the success of its initiative in 2022, the German Focal Point will continue to foster its working partnership with the German members of the EFSA scientific networks in the coming years. For 2023, we propose the following objectives:

1. Continue yearly meetings with the German participants in each of the 14 targeted networks to maintain and strengthen these working relationships,
2. Within these meetings, focus on the data-related networks: Chemical Monitoring Data Collection, Biological Monitoring Data and Food Consumption Data,
3. Observe the development of EFSA's One Health strategy with regard to the EFSA scientific networks, and
4. Organise at least one Art. 36 network meeting with a scientific topic and invite the German members of the relevant networks to join the meeting.

In setting up the 2023 meetings between the Focal Point and German network participants, priority will be given to finding meeting times early in 2023 with members of the two targeted networks with whom we did not meet in 2022: Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare and the Pesticide Steering network.

With objectives 1 and 4, the Focal Point will continue its work from 2022 to establish a stable and consistent working relationship with the German network participants and to promote productive exchange on scientific topics between German network participants and the Article 36 organisations network. In setting objectives 2 and 3, the Focal Point places special emphasis on topics that are particularly timely. The work of the EFSA Advisory Group on Data (AGoD) has resulted in several tailor-made tasks within the Focal Point operational framework, as well as several new AGoD subgroups. As Germany collaborates with EFSA on data-related topics in these new ways, the Focal Point will put a particular emphasis on being able to support this collaboration, including through objective 2. EFSA has made several changes to its scientific networks as part of its shift toward the One Health approach. In order to provide appropriate support to EFSA and EFSA's German partners, the Focal Point will also prioritise staying up-to-date on these developments (objective 3).

The German Focal Point believes that this work will promote strong partnership between the Focal Point and the German network participants, resulting in long-term benefits and in stronger and more efficient collaboration among German and European food safety actors.